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Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Report on the twenty-first annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including updated information on the special procedures

Note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* **

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Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/76, focuses on the special procedures system during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 and the main points raised at the twenty-first annual meeting of special procedures of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

* The annexes to the present report are circulated in the language of submission only.
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I. Introduction

1. In 2014, the special procedures continued to play a critical role in the promotion and protection of human rights. Mandate holders addressed all types of rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – as well as issues relating to specific groups. They reported to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, undertook country visits and acted on individual cases and concerns of a broader structural nature by means of communications to States and others. They also conducted thematic studies, convened expert consultations, contributed to the development of international human rights standards, engaged in advocacy, raised public awareness and provided advice and support for technical cooperation. The examples provided in the present report are indicative only and do not reflect all activities carried out by all mandate holders.

2. The present report provides facts and figures on the composition and outputs of the special procedures in 2014, including concrete examples of their contributions for the advancement of human rights. It describes the activities of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures and the main points discussed by the special procedures at their twenty-first annual meeting. The annual meeting is rooted in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which underlined the importance of preserving and strengthening the system of special procedures and enabling it to harmonize and rationalize its work through periodic meetings.[1]

II. Facts and figures

A. New mandates

3. During 2014, the Human Rights Council established two new thematic mandates: on the rights of persons with disabilities, and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. It also established a country mandate on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights. The special procedures system currently consists of 53 mandates, of which 39 are thematic and 14 concern countries.

B. Mandate holders

4. There are a total of 77 mandate holder positions, of which 31 were appointed in 2014. Mandate holders come from all United Nations geographic groups. At 31 December 2014, 23.68 per cent were from the African States, 19.74 per cent from Asian States, 11.84 per cent from Eastern European States, 19.74 per cent from Latin American and Caribbean States and 25 per cent from the Western Group (see annex I). A total of 38 per cent of mandate holders are female and 62 per cent are male.

C. Country visits and standing invitations

5. In 2014, special procedures conducted 80 country visits to 60 States and territories (see annex II). One Member State (Cameroon) and one non-Member observer State (State

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), part II, para. 95.

of Palestine) were added to the list of those that have extended a standing invitation to special procedures, reaching a total of 110 (see annex III).

6. Over the years, 167 States (or 86.5 per cent) have accepted requests for country visits, and 166 have been visited by at least one special procedures mandate holder. A total of 26 States (or 13.4 per cent) have never received or accepted any request for a visit by one or more mandate holders (see annex IV).

D. Communications

7. In 2014, the special procedures addressed a total of 553 communications to 116 States; 451 communications were sent jointly by more than one mandate holder. Communications covered at least 1,061 individuals, 179 of whom were women. A total of 237 replies were received (equivalent to 42.7 per cent of communications). A total of 135 communications were followed up by mandate holders (see annex V). Responses varied from acknowledgement of receipt to more substantive replies. Three communications reports were submitted to the Human Rights Council at its sessions.[2]

8. Following opinions issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention qualifying the detention of a complainant as arbitrary, in 2014 the Working Group received information on the release of 17 individuals and 230 military officers.

9. In 2014, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances transmitted 259 new cases of enforced disappearances, of which 69 under the urgent action procedure. The Working Group clarified 47 cases.

E. Thematic reports and studies

10. In 2014, 135 reports were submitted to the Human Rights Council (including 64 country missions reports) and 36 to the General Assembly (see annex VI).

11. Some newly appointed mandate holders focused their first report on their methods of work and priorities; this was the case of the mandate holders on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the situation of human rights defenders; the right to food; the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the rights of indigenous peoples; contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; and the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

12. A number of outgoing mandate holders recapitulated the achievements of their mandate in their last report; this was the case of the mandate holders on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the rights of indigenous peoples; the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the right to food; the situation of human rights defenders; extreme poverty and human rights; and the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The final report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia included reflections on the work of the mandate holder during

[2] A/HRC/25/74, A/HRC/26/21 and A/HRC/27/72.

the six years of the mandate. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, addressed the developments witnessed within the United Nations with regard to the theme of violence against women.[3]

13. Some mandate holders contributed to the debate on the post-2015 development agenda, such as the mandate holders on human rights and international solidarity; minority issues; the rights of indigenous peoples; the human rights of migrants; and the independence of judges and lawyers.

F. Contributions to standard-setting and the protection and promotion of human rights

14. In 2014, mandate holders continued to contribute to the progressive development of international human rights law by means of studies, consultations and the elaboration of guidelines in a variety of specific areas. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation published a handbook for realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,[4] aimed at providing all relevant actors with concrete guidance and tools on the meaning of this human right. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, issued a set of basic principles on the right to effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons,[5] intended to be a "living tool" for practitioners and law enforcement officials to use in their daily anti-trafficking work. Pursuant to Council resolution 20/16, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention embarked on the preparation of draft basic principles and guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of his or her liberty to bring proceedings before court. The draft will be presented to the Council at its thirtieth session. The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity presented a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity to the Council for its input.[6] The draft embodies the evolution of international solidarity into a concrete right to address the structural causes of poverty, inequality and other global challenges that impede human rights. A revised draft will be submitted to the Council and the General Assembly by 2016.

15. Several reports submitted to the Council and the General Assembly contained recommendations for the development of international law, such as the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism that the Human Rights Committee develop and adopt a general comment on the right to online privacy.[7] The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty recommended the drafting of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or adapting the methods of work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to monitor the implementation of social protection floors.[8] The Special Rapporteur on violence against women recommended the conclusion of a legally binding instrument to combat violence against women that addresses gaps in international human rights law.[9] The Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination recommended the drafting of an internationally binding instrument on private military and security companies. The Independent Expert on the promotion of an equitable and democratic

[3] A/HRC/26/38.
[4] A/HRC/27/55/Add.3.
[5] A/HRC/26/18, annex.
[6] A/HRC/26/34, annex.
[7] A/69/397, para. 64.
[8] A/69/297, paras. 61-62.
[9] A/69/368, para. 71.

international order is supporting the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a draft United Nations declaration on the right to peace.

16. Mandate holders contributed to the human rights debate, bringing to the attention of the international community issues such as the use of drones in extraterritorial lethal counter-terrorism operations;[10] the trend of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones and emerging autonomous weapons systems;[11] the use of mass digital surveillance for counter-terrorism purposes;[12] the implementation of the right to social security through the universal adoption of social protection floors;[13] and the use of private military and security companies.[14]

17. The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment published a book containing essays from more than 30 international experts reflecting on and expanding interpretations of his report on abuses in health-care settings.[15] The report of the Special Rapporteur has indeed led to widespread debate on such issues as palliative care, forced psychiatric treatment and gender assignment surgery for intersex persons.

18. Mandate holders witnessed positive developments in national legal and policy frameworks. For example, following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children to Seychelles, a prohibition of trafficking in persons act was enacted. The law not only penalizes the crime of trafficking and makes provisions for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, but also established a formalized interministerial committee to harmonize the State's efforts to combat trafficking in persons and to oversee the implementation of a national strategy and plan of action on trafficking in persons based on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.

G. Media outreach and public awareness

19. During the period under review, 379 news releases and public statements were issued, individually or jointly, by mandate holders. In addition, a number of web stories were produced, as were three documentaries,[16] on the visits of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation, to Brazil; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to Italy; and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, to Uruguay.

H. Other activities

20. Mandate holders continued to engage with numerous stakeholders and institutions and to conduct several activities aimed at advocating for better protection of human rights.

21. On 30 May 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons held an Arria Formula meeting with the Security Council on the theme "Protection of internally displaced persons: challenges and role of the Security Council." On 28 October, he also participated in an open debate of the Council on women, peace and

[10] See A/68/389 and A/HRC/25/59.
[11] A/HRC/26/36.
[12] A/69/397.
[13] A/69/297.
[14] A/69/338.
[15] A/HRC/22/53.
[16] Available on the OHCHR website at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.

security, with a focus on "displaced women and girls: leaders and survivors". The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples attended the Forum on Indigenous peoples, held in New York in May, and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in September. Similarly, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, attended the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, while the Special Rapporteur on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons addressed the Open-ended Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons at its fifth session, in July.

22. In 2014, 12 mandate holders participated in panel discussions held during the sessions of the Human Rights Council. As a result of two consecutive reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on the issue of historical and memorial narratives in divided societies,[17] the Council decided to convene, at its twenty-seventh session, a panel discussion on the issue. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence participated in the ensuing discussion as a panellist, reflecting the linkages between the two mandates on this issue.

23. Following a recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the Council convened a panel discussion during its twenty-seventh session on the use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

24. Mandate holders continued to organize expert meetings on topics of relevance to their respective mandate. In November 2014, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance convened an expert meeting on the dilemmas and challenges faced in combating the use of racial profiling by law enforcement officers. The outcome of the meeting will inform his thematic report to be submitted to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.

25. Under the guidance of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the third annual Forum on Business and Human Rights was held in Geneva from 1 to 3 December 2014, and saw the participation of some 2,000 representatives of the private sector, Governments and civil society. The theme of the Forum was "Advancing business and human rights globally: alignment, adherence and accountability". The report of the Forum will be presented to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.[18]

26. On 25 and 26 November 2014, the Forum on Minority Issues held its seventh session under the leadership of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.[19] Some 570 participants attended the Forum, including representatives of Member States, non-governmental organizations and United Nations and regional intergovernmental bodies. The debate focused on the theme "Preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities". The recommendations of the Forum will be presented to the Council at its twenty-eighth session.

27. The substantive inputs of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent contributed greatly to the adoption on 18 November 2014 by the General Assembly of a programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) with the theme "People of African descent:

[17] A/68/296 and A/HRC/25/49.
[18] A/HRC/29/29.
[19] See A/HRC/28/77.

recognition, justice and development".[20] The programme includes the establishment of a forum for persons of African descent and the drafting of a United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. The International Decade was officially launched at Headquarters on 10 December.

28. A number of mandate holders followed closely the debate over the post-2015 development agenda and draft documents on the sustainable development goals, advocating for a stand-alone goal on equality and women's empowerment and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all other goals.

29. Mandate holders also continued to integrate a gender perspective and promote the human rights of women in their work.

III. Activities of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures

30. In 2013 and 2014, the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures continued to assist coordination among mandate holders and to facilitate interaction and dialogue with a range a bodies and stakeholders. It prioritized engagement with the Council and the participation of mandate holders in the Council's work. The Committee and its Chairperson met regularly with stakeholders, including the Secretary-General, the High Commisioner, the President of the Council, and representatives of Member States and civil society. The Committee advised on the appointment of new mandate holders, in particular the need for the voice of special procedures to be heard in this process and for expertise and skills to be main selection criteria, and engaged with the Consultative Group in this context. It also worked on other issues, including the coordination of joint activities and statements on country-specific and thematic issues; country-specific issues; the role of special procedures in mainstreaming human rights; the facilitation of dialogue and cooperation between States and special procedures; and reprisals against those who cooperate with the United Nations in the field of human rights, and attacks against mandate holders, in particular at the sessions of the Council and in relation to country visits. In addition, it continued to give guidance on issues relating to the independence of special procedures, working methods and the code of conduct, in accordance with the internal advisory procedure. The Committee maintained regular contact with civil society.

31. The Committee's activities included, inter alia, delivering statements on behalf of all mandate holders at the special sessions of the Council, including during the sessions on the Central African Republic, the occupied Palestinian territories and Iraq.

32. The Committee also coordinated on behalf of all mandate holders the issuance of an open letter on 21 January 2014 on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; on 21 February, a joint statement on the situation in Ukraine; on 17 October, a letter on climate change; and, on 10 December, a statement on the occasion of Human Rights Day on climate change and human rights (see annex VII).

33. The Committee continued to nurture its partnership with regional mechanisms, including during a Wilton Park conference held in January 2014 on the theme "Addressing implementation gaps: improving cooperation between global and regional human rights mechanisms". A group of mandate holders attended the fifty-fifth ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (28 April - 12 May 2014), in Luanda,

[20] See General Assembly resolution 69/16.

including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, who officially addressed the Commission.

IV. Twenty-first annual meeting of special procedures

34. The twenty-first annual meeting focused on issues relating to the special procedures system. Mandate holders exchanged views with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Special Advisers of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change and the President of the Human Rights Council, and representatives of United Nations entities, States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and civil society organizations.

35. During the meeting, the participants (see annex VIII) elected by acclamation the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, as Chairperson of the Coordination Committee for the 2014-2015 cycle. The Chairperson of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France, was elected Rapporteur of the annual meeting and member of the Coordination Committee. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum, and the Chairperson of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, Michael Addo, were endorsed as members of the Committee. The former Chairperson of the Coordination Committee and Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, will remain an ex officio member for the coming year.

A. Methods of work

36. During the meeting, mandate holders discussed their methods of work and areas for improvement, including through enhanced coordination, strategic partnerships and the use of information technologies.

1. Country visits and strategies

37. Mandate holders welcomed the increasing number of Member States issuing standing invitations to special procedures. They noted, however, that in practice, they still faced difficulties in visiting the countries to which they had been invited. It was suggested that the attention of the President of the Council be drawn to instances where States deny access to requests for visits so that appropriate action could be considered. Mandate holders also regretted the practice of some States that deny access to certain mandate holders while inviting others to visit.

38. Participants also discussed specific issues affecting country-specific mandate holders, particularly when denied access to the State under consideration. They reiterated the need to be able to monitor and follow up the human rights situation as requested by the Council as its "eyes and ears". The recommendation was also made that the Council use its influence to assist country-specific mandates to carry out their functions adequately.

39. Participants identified the need to improve coordination among mandate holders and to keep each other informed when planning visits to avoid numerous visits to a single country. It was also recommended that country-specific and thematic mandate holders be more closely coordinated when the latter intend to visit a State which is already the subject of a special procedures mandate.

2. Follow-up to activities

40. Mandate holders continued to discuss ways to improve follow-up to their recommendations, including those made after country visits. They shared their experiences of follow-up, in particular the initiatives that they had taken, including the publication of reports, such as in the case of the Special Rapporteur on torture, who published a compilation in September 2014.[21] The compilation includes articles by senators and representatives, officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the Penitentiary System, members of the national human rights institution and the national preventive mechanism of Uruguay, the Parliamentary Commissary for the penitentiary system,\ and a variety of representatives leading non-governmental organizations. The publication is designed to be a tool to focus attention on the status of the implementation of the recommendations made by the mandate holder.

41. Other mandate holders disseminated questionnaires and convened workshops (see annex IX). One mandate holder pointed out that, one year after a country visit, he asked the State authorities whether they were interested in inviting him again; responses were often positive. These more focused follow-up visits proved to be a positive experience; for instance, in May 2014, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief conducted a working visit to the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistria region, to follow up on the recommendations he had made when visiting the country in 2012. He welcomed the adoption of Law 121/2012 on Ensuring Equality and the establishment in 2013 of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. Moreover, the adoption of a law on alternative civilian service in February 2014 and amnesty for those who were previously condemned for conscientious objection to military service in Transnistria were also a positive example of the implementation of one of his recommendations. Other significant progress was the inclusion by the Ministry of Education of a subject on the Holocaust in history lessons in several grades.

42. Other mandate holders recalled the important role played by other stakeholders, in particular civil society, in following up on the work of special procedures. The Special Rapporteur on torture worked with civil society stakeholders to support their follow-up efforts and to provide a platform for the engagement of civil society with the Government to drive anti-torture work forward. Participants also requested that reports on country visit be also translated into the local languages of the States concerned.

43. Mandate holders also considered issues relating to alternative ways to follow up on country visits in the light of the limited budget resources.

3. Information technologies

44. Mandate holders reiterated the need to revisit the OHCHR webpages devoted to special procedures with a view to optimize this important information tool and to keep users informed about their activities, including those of the Coordination Committee.

45. Moreover, participants requested that the above-mentioned webpages be made more user-friendly and accessible to a broader audience, which could therefore engage in an interactive dialogue. One step suggested was the translation of the content of the webpages into all official languages of the United Nations. Mandate holders also enquired about electronic meeting platforms.

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[21] Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Próximos Pasos Hacia una Política Penitenciaria de Derechos Humanos en Uruguay: Ensayos en seguimiento a las recomendaciones de 2009 y 2013 de la Relatoria de Naciones Unidas contra la tortura, Washington College of Law, September 2014.

46. OHCHR informed the special procedures about steps taken to enhance and redesign its current website. The process is being put in place in a gradual manner and is expected to also include webpages devoted to special procedures mechanisms. In the meantime, the Secretariat will continue to update content relating to special procedures mandates and to create new pages for newly appointed mandate holders.

4. Media and outreach

47. Mandate holders discussed ways to increase efficiency when issuing media statements, including issues related to timing and coordination with all concerned. They also enquired about contacts with media units in other organizations on crossing-cutting issues such environment and health, and suggested a different approach to press releases, including by making them more targeted to resonate at the national and local levels.

48. The OHCHR media unit briefed participants about media established practices. It also reported on other successful communication tools, such as web stories and information notes.

B. Engagement with stakeholders

49. Participants considered how best to relate and share information within the United Nations system, including in the field, to ensure that all are well informed about their work and recommendations. In addition to and in keeping with the Human Rights Up Front initiative, launched by the Secretary-General in July 2013, discussions should continue on other ways to more fully integrate the findings of special procedures into the work of the United Nations system and its intergovernmental bodies, such as the Security Council.

50. Participants also considered cooperation with academic institutions, which could provide useful research, especially in the light of the resource constraints faced by the special procedures. Other useful ways for the special procedures to secure inputs included expert meetings, national and regional consultations and meetings with regional mechanisms.

C. Challenges confronting the system

51. Despite an expanding system and the major contributions of the special procedures to the protection and promotion of human rights, the system continued to face critical challenges, including underfunding, which was having an impact on their activities. Reprisals against those cooperating with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights were a cause of great concern, as was the non-cooperation of certain States with mandate holders.

1. Financing the special procedures

52. OHCHR recalled that the special procedures received approximately 0.5 per cent of the United Nations regular budget. These resources were distributed evenly across mandates, but were still insufficient to support adequately all mandates and the needs of mandate holders. In the past, a number of mandates had been established by the Council without adequate regular budget resources and, in some cases, without any provision at all for staff support. Today, the standard minimum of 1.5 Professional and 0.5 General Service staff support for each individual mandate and three Professionals and one General Service staff for each working group to ensure effective support to the mandates concerned had not been met. Regular budget allocations provided for consultancies under existing mandates had also decreased. Moreover, in the absence of a resolution on the special procedures

mechanism, there was no regular budget allocated to support the system as a whole, including the activities of the Coordination Committee, the organization of the annual induction session for newly appointed mandate holders, the annual meeting of mandate holders and all information and other tools and services provided by the Special Procedures Branch to the system.

53. The limited and/or lack of regular budget allocations was compensated by voluntary contributions received by OHCHR from Member States. A number of mandates also occasionally received earmarked contributions from Member States. Overall voluntary contributions were, however, insufficient to meet all needs of the special procedures.

54. Mandate holders reiterated their concerns with regard to the inadequate resouces put at their disposal under each mandate to fulfil their tasks adequately. They also discussed fundraising issues and the possibility of approaching private institutions and foundations in that regard. It was suggested that OHCHR be regularly informed of fundraising activities by the special procedures.

55. Participants reiterated the need for Member States, the General Assembly and United Nations budgetary bodies to allocate the corresponding budget when a mandate is established. The establishment of a new mandate must be accompanied by the timely provision of necessary resources through the regular budget, which must also provide existing mandates with a reasonable minimum level of resources to allow the activities of mandates to be conducted.

2. Reprisals

56. Mandate holders discussed the issue of intimidation and reprisals against persons cooperating with the United Nations and its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. Several reported on cases of intimidation and reprisals against witnesses and other interlocutors willing to engage with them before, during and after country visits. One mandate holder gave a specific example from his own experience following a recent country visit. Civil society representatives had been harassed and intimidated, some put under de facto house arrest to prevent them from meeting with him; meeting places were barricaded, and activities were monitored. The mandate holder had had to suspend the fact-finding part of his mission. He provided insights into the reactions of the Government and United Nations field presences and proposed a discussion on reacting to a crisis situation and providing persons in need with protection, including when reprisals are committed after the visit. There was thus a need to develop a systematic approach to the issue and to protect sources, who were now even more vulnerable because of the new electronic ways by which they could be exposed.

57. Mandate holders agreed on the need to find ways to respond to acts of intimidation, harrassment and reprisal faced by individuals trying to contact them, including by identifying more effective and rapid mechanisms in situations where protection gaps exist and when dealing with States that deny or trivialize protection concerns. They expressed the need for a high-level mechanism to respond to States that engage in reprisals.

58. Mandate holders also referred to defamatory, ad hominem attacks by States and non-governmental organizations on mandate holders, and stressed that the Council should be more active in responding to such attacks.

59. Mandate holders reiterated their concerns during their exchange with the President of the Council, who noted that reprisals were a hindrance to the protection and promotion of human rights. He acknowledged the difficulties in addressing this issue and agreed on the need to continue to denounce cases of reprisal, to raise awareness and to protect actively those at risk. The mandate holders also raised the issues with the Deputy Secretary-General, with a focus on the response given by the Secretary-General to the increasing number of

reprisals perpetrated against interlocutors of special procedures. The Coordination Committee also informed participants on how it had systematically raised the issue with the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the President of the Council, States and civil society.

D. Thematic issues

1. Women's human rights and Human Rights Council resolution 26/11

60. Discussions focused on Council resolution 26/11 on protection of the family and the subsequent panel discussion, and were led by the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice.

61. Mandate holders appreciated the emphasis on the structural problems of care responsibilities and the need to redistribute them between women and men, the family and the State. They also appreciated the fact that, in the panel discussion, there was general acceptance that families were diverse and as such, there should be no discrimination, and that violence in the family should be eliminated.

62. Resolution 26/11 made, however, no reference to women's right to equality within the family, and participants in the panel discussion had erroneously equated the protection of the family with the protection of the rights of individual members of the family, which does not secure the right of women to equality in the family. Women and men had a well-established right to equality in all aspects of family life, as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

63. Furthermore, it could not be said that children had, like women, the right to equality in the family: under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children were entitled to be free from abuse, have their voices heard and be respected, and this was not equivalent to women's right to equality with men in all aspects of family life. What should be guaranteed was the equality of girls with boys in the family.

64. The Chairperson of the Coordination Committee made a statement on behalf of the mandate holders on this issue (see annex X).

2. Sustainable development goals

65. Several mandate holders pointed out that they wished to continue their own efforts to integrate human rights into the sustainable development goals, especially with regard to putting greater emphasis on accountability for human rights. Participants in the discussion acknowledged that, although the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[22] put greater emphasis on human rights than the Millennium Development Goals, gaps and weaknesses remained and had to be addressed. Mandate holders agreed that much would depend on the way indicators to measure achievement of the targets under each goal were formulated. It was suggested that the mandate holders should endeavour to inform the discussion on indicators to make them human rights-sensitive.

66. Some mandate holders explained how the current formulation of sustainable development goals did not address all the human rights dimensions related to their individual mandates. For example, the right to adequate housing was not reflected to the

[22] A/68/970.

same extent as were the rights to food, education, health or water and sanitation. It was also noted that long-term efforts and strong partnerships with other stakeholders were important in order to influence the process. It was agreed that mandate holders would continue to seek ways to monitor the negotiations and influence the formulation of the goals and indicators by mapping out crucial dates in the process and channels for input. The possibility of a joint statement focused on common issues, such as accountability, equality and non-discrimination, was also discussed.

3. Climate change

67. Mandate holders focused their attention to climate change in the light of several upcoming events on the issue within the framework of the United Nations in 2015, with a view to increasing their interaction with the United Nations entities working on that issue.

68. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change urged mandate holders to speak out about the impact of climate change on human rights as they saw it in the course of their work, and to contribute to discussions.

69. The Special Envoy emphasized that this was a crucial time for the international community and its response to climate change in the lead-up to the conclusion of a new legally binding climate agreement in December 2015. Efforts of human rights advocates had to build upon the Cancun Agreements and the language therein identifying the relationship between human rights and climate change, and support the new language to be proposed at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Lima, "that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect, protect and fulfil human rights". In this regard, the Council, in its resolution 10/4, had influenced the Agreements by affirming that human rights obligations and commitments had the potential to inform and strengthen international and national policymaking in the area of climate change, promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes.

70. The Coordinator and Principal Legal Adviser of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change updated participants on the status of negotiations on the climate change agreement, and explained the events and opportunities that human rights advocates, like other stakeholders, could use to express their views. Because of the Cancun Agreements, human rights were now part of the discourse and the best way to generate input was through States parties.

71. The Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment referred to his mapping report,[23] which reflected the work of all special procedures on climate change. He had initiated an open letter to States parties to the Framework Convention, in which he urged them to build upon the human rights language of the Cancun Agreements and to ensure the protection and promotion of and respect for human rights in the new legally binding instrument. The letter was underwritten by other mandate holders. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme added that the environment community was increasingly interested in incorporating human rights and the work of the special procedures, and expressed support for the open letter. Other mandate holders shared their experience of work on climate change and their views on the process and opportunities to influence discussions. They supported the need to work individually and collectively to emphasize human rights in the discussions over the next 15 months.

[23] A/HRC/25/53.

72. In accordance with Council resolution 26/27, in which the Council called upon mandate holders to consider climate change in their work, the Council would convene a discussion thereon at its twenty-eighth session.

E. Interaction with representatives of the United Nations and other stakeholders

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

73. The High Commissioner welcomed the opportunity, at such an early stage since his appointment, to engage in a candid discussion with all participants. He considered the annual meeting a platform not just for exchanging views but also for exploring ways of achieving greater synergies among mandates and impact for those who are unable to enjoy their human rights. While recalling that the independence of the mandates of the High Commissioner and the special procedures must be respected, he welcomed opportunities to collaborate. OHCHR was committed to providing holistic support for all human rights mechanisms to ensure that the entire system was resourced and supported to operate with maximum efficiency and effectiveness, despite the very real resource constraints faced by all.

74. Mandate holders raised a number of points, including budget constraints, the need for a stronger human rights perspective in United Nations country teams and for greater support from Resident Coordinators, attacks on mandate holders and increasing reprisals against those who cooperate with human rights mechanisms.

75. OHCHR was endeavouring to address funding shortfalls. Efforts would continue during the preparation of the 2016/17 regular budget submission to advocate for greater regular budget funding for the special procedures. On the sustainable development goals, the High Commissioner welcomed the contributions of special procedures. He also pointed out that, in its assessment of the outcome document, OHCHR had found that progress had been made in ensuring that the framework addressed the full range of rights and included a focus on inequalities, all key groups and some critical international reforms. With regard to reprisals, the High Commisioner intended to address the issue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Deputy Secretary-General

76. The Deputy Secretary-General provided an overview of the Human Rights Up Front initiative. Prevention through early warning was core to the initiative and, in this regard, special procedures had an important role to play, since conflicts often originate from human rights violations that special procedures monitor and report on. The initiative had been presented within the United Nations system to Members States, and was taking root in the field, including through a letter addressed to all Resident Coordinators.

77. The Deputy Secretary-General pointed out that information gathered by special procedures was extremely valuable, and invited mandate holders to find a more institutional way of sharing information with the Human Rights Up Front initiative. The Chairperson expressed the readiness of the special procedures to contribute to the initiative, and proposed that a consultation be organized between the Coordination Committee, OHCHR and the Deputy Secretary-General on submitting early warning information.

3. Special Advisers of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect

78. The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide listed the different opportunities to enhance cooperation: (a) sharing information and analysis; (b) contributing to the preparation of country visits or conducting joint country visits; (c) contributing with comments to reports of special procedures; (d) participating in meetings on thematic issues that are relevant to all; (v) issuing joint public statements; and (e) holding meetings to enhance cooperation and share strategies on joint action.

79. The Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect briefed participants on the evolution of the concept of responsibility to protect and its relevance, and added two additional opportunities for cooperation with the special procedures, namely, through the first pillar of the responsibility of States to protect their own populations, through prevention and early action; and the second pillar of the responsibility of the international community to assist States. In the latter case, she stressed the role that special procedures could play in encouraging States to live up to their responsibilities and in capacity-building efforts to make States more resilient to atrocity crimes.

80. A number of mandate holders raised questions on, inter alia, the role and responsibility of non-State actors (such as business enterprises); the type of information that could be shared with the Special Advisers; how to broaden the approach to the prevention of crimes (beyond criminal justice to also include social justice); the need to address both justice and reconciliation issues; and to look into violence against women in non-conflict situations, which may exacerbate violence against women in conflict situations.

81. The mandate holders agreed to explore areas of cooperation with the Special Advisers, who reiterated their willingness to work with the special procedures.

4. President of the Human Rights Council

82. The President of the Council pointed out that 2014 had been a busy year, with 31 out of 53 mandates appointed. Two new thematic mandates had been created: on the rights of persons with disabilities, and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. The Council had also responded to emergency situations by establishing, for example, commissions of inquiry on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Eritrea. It had also accepted that a human rights team should be deployed to Iraq. At the most recent session of the Council, the issues of civil society space and the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, and violence against persons because of their sexual orientation had been taken up, and demanded ongoing attention.

83. The President encouraged mandate holders to be guided by the letter and spirit of the Code of Conduct. Cooperation between States and the special procedures should be constructive and open, with continuing dialogue. Although some States complained about the work of special procedures, it was important to preserve the credibility of the system and the independence of mandate holders.

84. The President reiterated the fact that the Council attached great importance to recommendations made in the thematic and country visit reports of special procedures, given that they gave States more information and helped in decision-making. Gabon, for example, had had a positive experience with the visit of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons. The visit had resulted in a policy that was beneficial to the country.

85. The President had raised the issue of personal attacks on mandate holders with States during Council sessions, and had noted a decrease. He pointed out that attacks on those who cooperate with the mechanisms, including during country missions, had

increased, and he was advocating for civil society, including as partners of Governments. With regard to the budget, the President informed participants that he had addressed the issue of the increasing number of mandates without commensurate resources during his discussions with senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

86. During the discussion, mandate holders advocated for their greater participation in sessions of the Council, including during the universal periodic review, special sessions and panel discussions. The issue of reporting on country visits outside of the annual interactive dialogue with the Council was raised.

5. Member States

87. In their meeting with representatives of Member States, mandate holders raised issues relating to, inter alia, the limited regular budget allocations to special procedures; State cooperation with special procedures, particularly for country visits; follow-up to and implementation of the recommendations of special procedures; reprisals against those who cooperate with the United Nations; the Human Rights Up Front initiative; compliance with the Code of Conduct; and cooperation with regional mechanisms.

88. Mandate holders also expressed concern at the increase in reprisals against individuals associated with country visits, and requested a more formal response from the Human Rights Council condemning such actions.

89. The representatives of a number of Member States took the floor to inform participants about their experience with the special procedures, including the steps taken to follow up on their recommendations following country visits. It was recalled that Member States ultimately decided on the opportunity of visits on the basis of their own needs. A number of States also referred to the importance of the timing of visits, which should be organized whenever a need is expressed at the national level. This would enable national actors to benefit in a timely manner from the expertise provided by the mandate holder and also facilitate follow-up activities.

90. Mandate holders referred to the importance of finalizing country reports shortly after their visit, and requested flexibility to permit rapid visits to countries when the human rights situation was deteriorating. The need for more follow-up visits was noted by mandate holders, who suggested looking at ways to institutionalize the practice.

6. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

91. In their meeting with representatives of civil society, mandate holders highlighted the need for integrated follow-up strategies at both the national and international levels. They recalled the important role that they played in developing the capacity of local organizations to disseminate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by special procedures. They also referred to the importance of protecting and strengthening the participation of civil society organizations in United Nations forums.

92. The civil society representatives expressed gratitude for the commitment of mandate holders to cases of reprisal and the protection of human rights defenders. They requested mandate holders to examine discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, caste and descent; the right to privacy; the impact of extractive industries on the rights of indigenous peoples; and the sustainable development goals. They also expressed the view that the Coordination Committee should play a role in the selection and appointment of new mandate holders.

93. Participants in the meeting acknowledged that civil society greatly contributed to the work undertaken by all mandate holders. It was agreed that dialogue and consultations with civil society organizations should continue on a regular basis.

7. Regional human rights mechanisms

94. The Chairperson highlighted the importance that the special procedures system had placed on cooperation with regional mechanisms over the years, particularly because such cooperation added value to the work of both systems.

95. Marison Blanchard, a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, provided an overview of the work of the inter-American system, with a particular focus on the Commission. The priority topics of the thematic special procedures of the Commission included racism in the judicial system; indigenous women's rights, including disappearances of indigenous women; corporal punishment; the impact of organized violence on the rights of children; migrant children's rights; the use of criminal law to prosecute human rights defenders; the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; and economic, social and cultural rights.

96. Ms. Blanchard gave examples of good cooperation between the Commission and the special procedures. The support of the special procedures of the Council had proven to be effective, particularly at times when efforts were being made to weaken the regional system. The Commission was willing to enhance cooperation.

97. Mandate holders sought further discussion on the petition procedure, country visits and joint statements. They also added other examples of ongoing or upcoming cooperation, and expressed openness to forging links with the Commission. A number of themes emerged for further exchanges between the two systems in relation to development of standards and common positions.

98. Mandate holders also discussed the status of implementation of the Addis Ababa road map agreed between the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on 17 and 18 January 2012. The Chairperson of the joint working group on the implementation of the road map outlined the main activities carried out since June 2013. He highlighted the review of the road map conducted between the two systems on the margins of the fifty-fifth ordinary session of the Commission and some issues of common interest, such as the right to life, child marriage, and business and human rights. He encouraged mandate holders to pursue cooperation with all regional human rights mechanisms in a way that was respectful of the priorities and procedures of those mechanisms.

8. National human rights institutions

99. The mandate holders welcomed the Secretary of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, who pointed out that national human rights institutions constituted a bridge between the State and non-governmental organizations, and between international human rights and national protection systems. The Committee was committed to strengthening cooperation with the special procedures in respect of country visits and information-sharing on human rights situations. It intended to develop a compilation of good practices in collaboration with the special procedures.

100. The mandate holders recalled the important role played by national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights. They thanked these institutions for their work in disseminating the findings of the special procedures and, in some instances, in following up on their recommendations. They agreed to continue working together, particularly in the context of country visits.

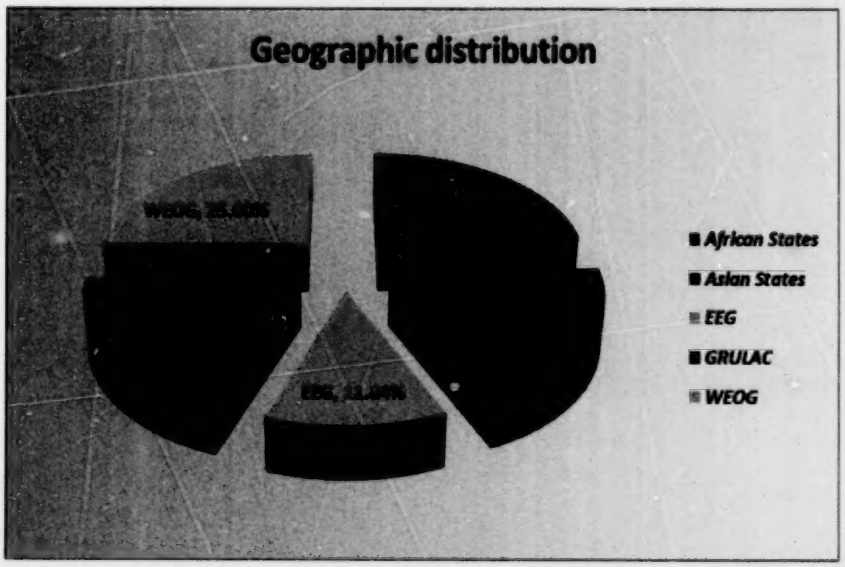
Annexes

[English only]

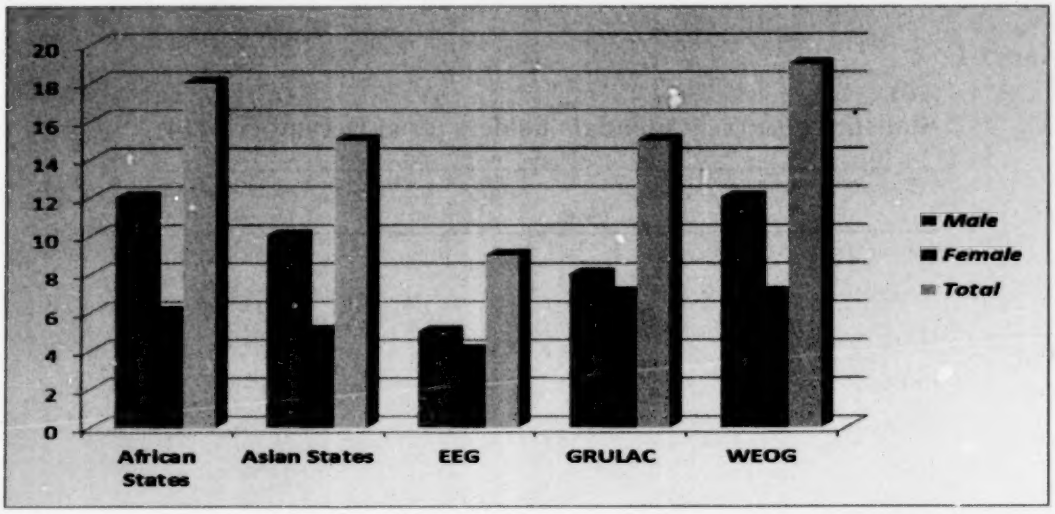
Annex I

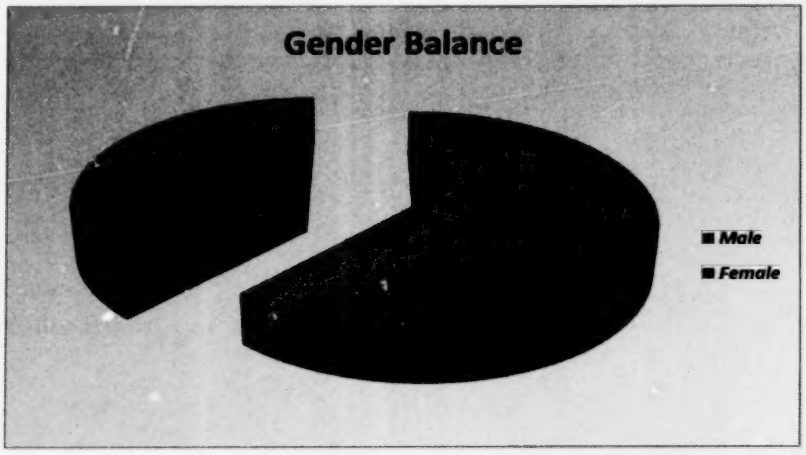
Statistics of current mandate holders (as at December 2014)

	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*% Geographic distribution*
African States	12	6	18	23.68%
Asian States	10	5	15	19.74%
EEG	5	4	9	11.84%
GRULAC	8	7	15	19.74%
WEOG	12	7	19	25.00%
Total	47	29	76	100%
Gender balance	62%	38%	100%	



Regional distribution of mandate holders, including gender composition (as of December 2014)





Annex II

Country visits conducted in 2014

REGION	*STATE VISITED*	*MANDATE*	*DATE*
African States	Rwanda	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	20 – 27 January 2014
African States	Sudan	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	11 – 20 February 2014
African States	Côte d'Ivoire	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire	11 – 23 February 2014
African States	Seychelles	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	27 – 31 January 2014
African States	Mali	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	17 – 26 February 2014
African States	Nigeria	Independent Expert on minority issues	17 – 28 February 2014
African States	Mauritania	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences	24-27 February 2014
African States	Guinea-Bissau	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	24 February – 1 March 2014
African States	Central African Republic	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic	4 – 14 March 2014
African States	Central African Republic	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic	10 – 18 April 2014
African States	Comoros	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	8 – 16 May 2014
African States	Tunisia	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	4 – 6 June 2014
African States	Côte d'Ivoire	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire	16 – 20 June 2014
African States	Sudan	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	15 – 24 June 2014
African States	Kenya	Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	22 – 29 July 2014
African States	Côte d'Ivoire	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	7 – 10 October 2014
African States	Mali	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	8 – 17 October 2014

African States	Gambia	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment / Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	3 – 7 November 2014
African States	Niger	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences	11 – 21 November 2014
African States	Botswana	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	14 – 26 November 2014
African States	Burundi	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	14 – 25 November 2014
African States	Tunisia	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	27 November – 5 December 2014
African States	Burundi	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	8 – 16 December 2014
African States	Somalia	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	6 – 13 December 2014
Asian States	Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	12 – 17 January 2014
Asian States	Qatar	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	19 – 26 January 2014
Asian States	United Arab Emirates	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	28 January – 5 February 2014
Asian States	Tajikistan	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	10 – 12 February 2014
Asian States	Myanmar	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	14 – 19 February 2014
Asian States	Papua New Guinea	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	3 – 14 March 2014
Asian States	Jordan	Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation	11 – 16 March 2014
Asian States	Kazakhstan	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences	25 – 27 March 2014
Asian States	Kazakhstan	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of religion and belief	25 March – 5 April 2014
Asian States	Japan	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	8 – 10 April 2014
Asian States	Sri Lanka	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	19 – 26 May 2014
Asian States	Bhutan	Special Rapporteur on the right to education	26 May – 4 June 2014
Asian States	Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	15 – 25 June 2014
Asian States	Myanmar	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	17 – 26 July 2014
Asian States	Viet Nam	Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion of belief	21 – 31 July 2014
Asian States	Oman	Special Rapporteur on the rights to	7 – 13 September

		freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	2014
Asian States	OPT	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	20 – 28 September 2014
Asian States	Republic of Korea	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	29 September – 6 October 2014
Asian States	Afghanistan	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	4 – 10 November 2014
Asian States	Republic of Korea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	10 – 14 November 2014
Asian States	Malaysia	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	19 November – 2 December 2014
EEG	Lithuania	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	2 – 5 February 2014
EEG	Ukraine	Special Rapporteur on minority issues	7 – 13 April 2014
EEG	Azerbaijan	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	18 – 24 May 2014
EEG	Croatia	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	15 – 18 June 2014
EEG	Serbia	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	19 – 23 June 2014
EEG	Kosovo[a]	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	24 – 26 June 2014
EEG	Montenegro	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	27 – 30 June 2014
EEG	Azerbaijan	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	18 – 27 August 2014
EEG	Ukraine	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	16 – 25 September 2014
EEG	Slovenia	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	17 – 21 November 2014
GRULAC	Honduras	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	21 – 25 April 2014
GRULAC	Mexico	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	21 April – 2 May 2014
GRULAC	Haiti	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	28 June – 5 July 2014
GRULAC	Honduras	Special Rapporteur on violence	1 – 8 July 2014

[a] All references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), without prejudice to the status of Kosov.

		against women, its causes and consequences	
GRULAC	Haiti	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	15 – 22 July 2014
GRULAC	Chile	Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice	1 – 9 September 2014
GRULAC	Peru	Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice	11 – 19 September 2014
GRULAC	Paraguay	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	21 – 28 November 2014
WEOG	Spain	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	21 January – 3 February 2014
WEOG	Switzerland	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	17 – 28 March 2014
WEOG	Germany	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	17 – 28 March 2014
WEOG	New Zealand	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	24 March – 7 April 2014
WEOG	United Kingdom	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	31 March – 15 April 2014
WEOG	Sweden	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	27 May – 6 June 2014
WEOG	Austria	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	27 May – 6 June 2014
WEOG	Italy	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	27 May – 6 June 2014
WEOG	Netherlands	Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	26 June – 4 July 2014
WEOG	Italy	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	7 – 9 July 2014
WEOG	Italy	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	22 – 26 September 2014
WEOG	France	Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	20 – 24 October 2014
WEOG	Sweden	Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	1 – 5 December 2014
WEOG	Italy	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	2 – 5 December 2014
WEOG	Malta	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	6 – 10 December 2014
WEOG	Iceland	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	8 – 15 December 2014

WEOG	Spain	Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice	9 – 19 December 2014

Statistics

Region	Number of visits	Percentage
African States	24	30
Asian States	21	26%
EEG	10	13%
GRULAC	8	10%
WEOG	17	21%
Total	80	**100%**

Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia.

Asia: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam.

EEG: Azerbaijan, Croatia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Serbia, including Kosovo,[b] Slovenia, Ukraine.

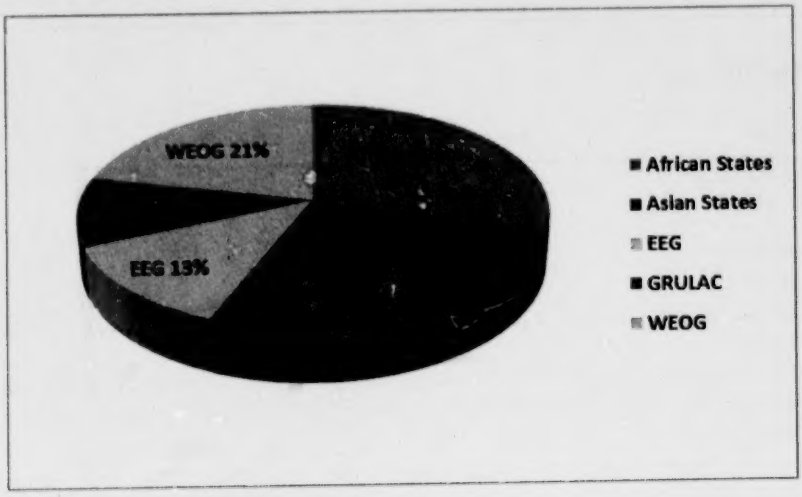
GRULAC: Chile, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru.

WEOG: Austria, Germany, France, Iceland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

One territory visited: Occupied Palestinian Territory.

[b] All references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Country visits by region (%)



Annex III

Standing invitations

As at 31 December 2014, 109 Member States and 1 non-Member observer State had extended a standing invitation to thematic special procedures.

Member States and non-Member observer A – L	Date	Member States and non-Member observer M - Z	Date
Albania	2 December 2009	**Luxembourg**	March 2001
Andorra	3 November 2010	**Madagascar**	26 August 2011
Argentina	3 December 2002	**Maldives**	2 May 2006
Armenia	1 May 2006	**Malta**	March 2001
Australia	7 August 2008	**Marshall Islands**	4 March 2011
Austria	March 2001	**Mexico**	March 2001
Azerbaijan	15 April 2013		
Bahamas	6 June 2013	**Monaco**	22 October 2008
Belgium	March 2001	**Mongolia**	9 April 2004
Benin	31 October 2012	**Montenegro**	11 October 2005
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10 February 2010	**Nauru**	30 May 2011
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7 May 2010	**Netherlands**	March 2001
Brazil	10 December 2001	**New Zealand**	3 February 2004
Bulgaria	March 2001	**Nicaragua**	26 April 2006
Burundi	6 June 2013	**Niger**	21 August 2012
Cameroon	15 September 2014	**Nigeria**	25 October 2013
Canada	April 1999	**Norway**	26 March 1999
Cabo Verde	26 April 2013	**Palau**	3 May 2011
Central African Republic	3 September 2013		
Chad	1 June 2012	**Panama**	14 March 2011
Chile	12 May 2009	**Papua New Guinea**	11 May 2011
Colombia	17 March 2003	**Paraguay**	28 March 2003
Costa Rica	2002	**Peru**	3 April 2002
Croatia	13 March 2003	**Poland**	March 2001
Cyprus	March 2001	**Portugal**	March 2001
Czech Republic	September 2000	**Qatar**	1 June 2010
Denmark	March 2001	**Republic of Korea**	3 March 2008
Dominica	9 December 2009	**Republic of Moldova**	2 June 2010
Ecuador	9 January 2003	**Rwanda**	27 June 2011
El Salvador	9 February 2010	**Samoa**	14 February 2011
Estonia	March 2001	**San Marino**	3 April 2003
Finland	March 2001	**Sao Tome and Principe**	2 February 2011
France	March 2001	**Serbia**	11 October 2005
Gabon	29 October 2012	**Seychelles**	5 November 2012
Georgia	30 March 2010	**Sierra Leone**	7 April 2003
Germany	March 2001	**Slovakia**	March 2001

Ghana	21 April 2006	**Slovenia**	March 2001
Greece	March 2001	**Solomon islands**	6 May 2011
Guatemala	April 2001	**South Africa**	17 July 2003
Guinea-Bissau	7 May 2010	**Spain**	March 2001
Honduras	12 May 2010	**Sweden**	March 2001
Hungary	March 2001	**Switzerland**	April 2002
Iceland	September 2000	**Thailand**	4 November 2011
India	14 September 2011	**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**	13 October 2004
Iraq	16 February 2010	**Tonga**	25 January 2013
Ireland	March 2001	**Turkey**	March 2001
Islamic Republic of Iran	24 July 2002	**Tunisia**	28 February 2011
Italy	March 2001	**Tuvalu**	26 April 2013
Japan	1 March 2011	**Ukraine**	23 June 2006
Jordan	20 April 2006	**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**	March 2001
Kazakhstan	28 July 2009	**Uruguay**	18 March 2005
Kuwait	13 September 2010	**Vanuatu**	12 May 2009
Latvia	March 2001	**Zambia**	16 July 2008
Lebanon	17 March 2011	**State of Palestine**	30 July 2014
Libya	15 March 2012		
Liechtenstein	21 January 2003		
Lithuania	March 2001		

Percentages on regional representation relating to standing invitations (as at December 2014)

United Nations Regional Groups of Member States	Number of standing invitations extended per region (total number of States within that region)	Percentage of standing invitations extended per regional group out of the total of 109	Percentage of standing invitations extended compared to the total number of States within that region
African Group	20 (out of 54 States)	18 per cent	37 per cent
Asia-Pacific Group	22 (out of 53 States*)	20 per cent	41 per cent
Eastern European Group	21 (out of 23 States)	19 per cent	91 per cent
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	18 (out of 33 States)	17 per cent	55 per cent
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	28 (out of 30 States)	26 per cent	93 per cent
Total	**109 (of 193 States*)**	**100 per cent**	

* Kiribati, even though not a member of any regional group, has for statistical purposes been added to the Asia-Pacific Group.

NB. The State of Palestine, accorded non-Member Observer status by General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, extended a standing invitation to all special procedures on 4 July 2014.

Annex IV

States not yet visited by any mandate holder

Out of the 193 States Members of the United Nations, 167 States (86.5 per cent) have accepted requests for country visits and 166 have been visited by at least one of the special procedures mandate holders. A total of 26 States (13.4 per cent) have never received or accepted any request for a visit by one or more of the special procedures mandate holders.

States never visited, no requests sent (15 in total)	*States never visited, despite requests sent (12 in total)*
Andorra	Barbados
Antigua and Barbuda	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Brunei Darussalam	Djibouti
Dominica	Eritrea
Grenada	Guinea
Luxembourg	Lesotho
Micronesia	Libya*
Monaco	Nauru
Palau	Swaziland
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Vanuatu
Saint Lucia	Zimbabwe
Samoa	
San Marino	
Sao Tome e Principe	
Tonga	

* All missions to Libya have been postponed for security reasons.

Annex V

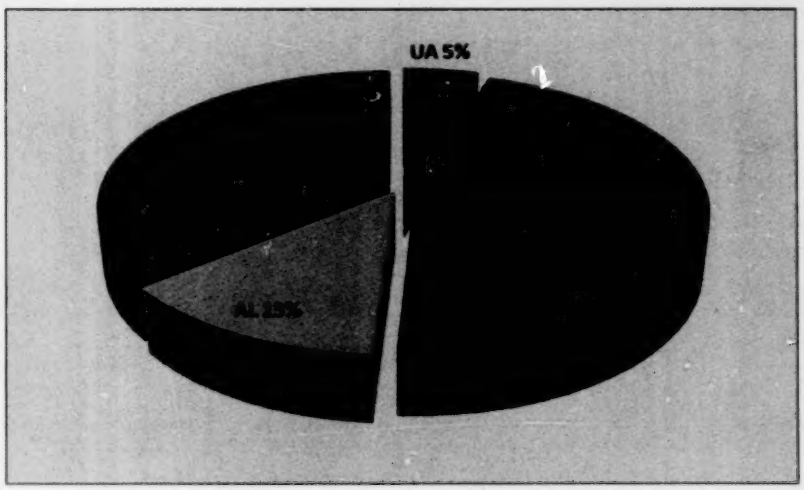
Communications

Statistics of communications sent by mandate holders

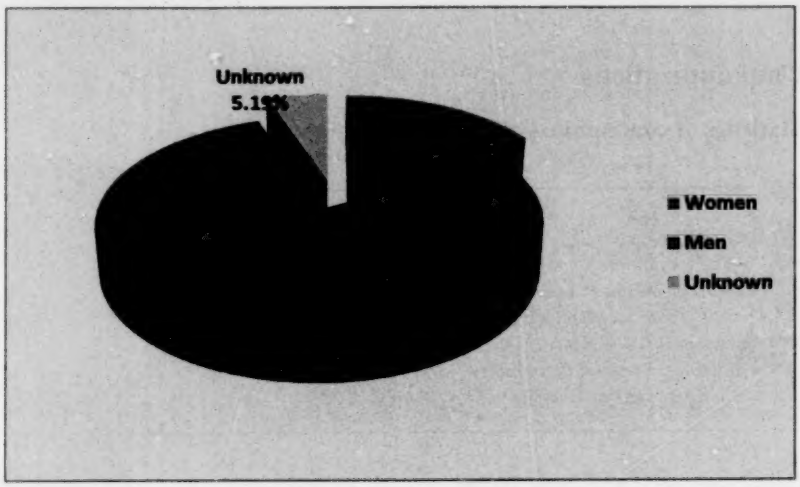
2014 Basic Figures

553 – Total number of communications sent
81% - Joint communications by two or more mandates
1061 – Individuals covered (17.19% expressly relate to women)
116 – Countries which received communications by 31 December 2014
42.7% - States replies to communications N.B. These statistics do not include data from the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) which uses different working methods.

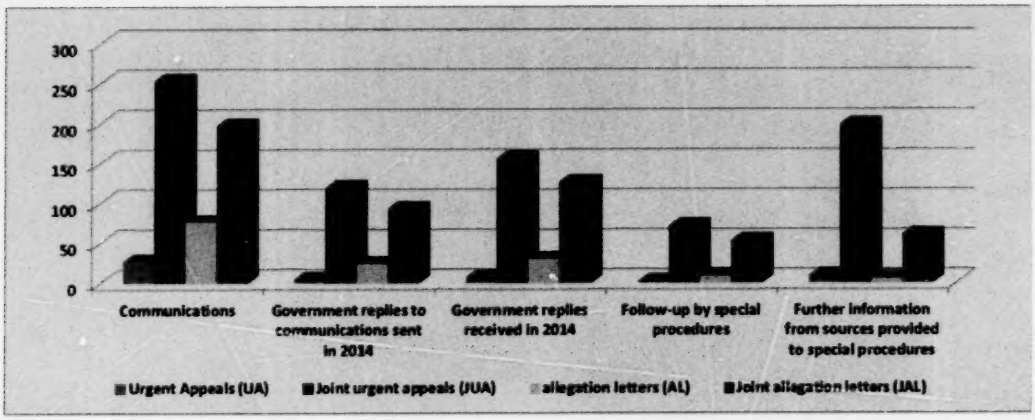
Communications by type 2014



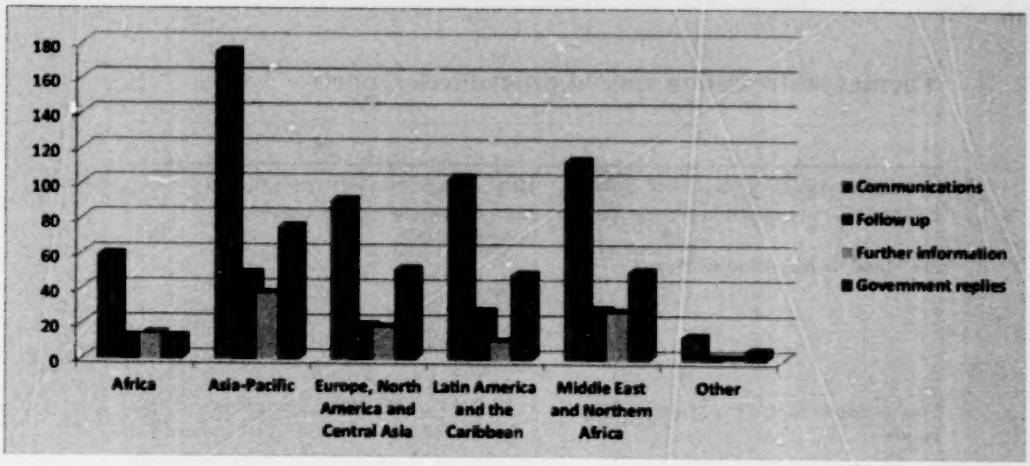
Communications by sex



Communications and follow-up by type of communication in 2014 (by number)



Communications and follow-up by region in 2014 (by number)



Annex VI

Themes addressed in special procedures reports

Mandate	*Title*
Special Rapporteur on the **sale of children**, child prostitution and child pornography Ms **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**	HRC, 'Overview of six year tenure and main issues relating to the mandate', A/HRC/25/48 (Ms Najat Maalla M'jid) GA, 'Vision and methods of work', A/69/262
Special Rapporteur in the field of **cultural rights** Ms **Farida Shaheed**	HRC, 'Memorialization processes of the events of the past in post-conflict and divided societies, with a specific focus on memorials and museums of history/memory, A/HRC/25/49 GA, 'The impact of advertising and marketing practices on the enjoyment of cultural rights', A/69/286
Independent Expert on the effects of **foreign debt** and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights Mr **Pablo Bohoslavsky**	HRC, 'Overview on activities of the mandate 2008-2014', A/HRC/25/50 (Mr Cephas Lumina) HRC, 'Draft commentary on the guiding principles on foreign debt and human rights', A/HRC/25/51 (Mr Cephas Lumina) HRC, 'Impact of non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on human rights', A/HRC/25/52 (Mr Cephas Lumina) GA, 'Thematic priorities for 2014-2017', A/69/273
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable **environment** Mr **John Knox**	HRC, 'Mapping report', A/HRC/25/53
Special Rapporteur on adequate **housing** as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context Ms **Leilani Farha**	HRC, 'Guiding principles to assist States and other relevant actors in addressing the current tenure insecurity crisis faced by the urban poor in an increasingly urbanized world', A/HRC/25/54 (Ms Raquel Rolnik)

	GA, 'Outline of some priority themes and areas of interest for the new mandate holder', A/69/274
Special Rapporteur on the situation of **human rights defenders** Mr **Michel Forst**	HRC, 'Elements of a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders', A/HRC/25/55 (Ms Margaret Sekaggya)
	GA, 'Vision and priorities of the Special Rapporteur', A/69/259
Special Rapporteur on **minority issues** Ms **Rita Izsák**	HRC, 'Ensuring the inclusion of minority issues in post-2015 development agendas', A/HRC/25/56
	GA, 'Preventing and addressing violence and atrocities against minorities', A/69/266
Special Rapporteur on the right to **food** Ms **Hilal Elver**	HRC, 'The transformative potential of the right to food', A/HRC/25/57 (Mr Olivier De Schutter)
	GA, 'Vision for the mandate and relevant thematic issues', A/69/275
Special Rapporteur **on freedom of religion or belief** Mr **Heiner Bielefeldt**	HRC, 'Tackling manifestations of collective religious hatred', A/HRC/25/58 GA, 'Tackling religious intolerance and discrimination in the workplace', A/69/261
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while **countering terrorism** Mr **Ben Emmerson**	HRC, 'The use of drones in extraterritorial lethal counter-terrorism operations, including in the context of asymmetrical armed conflict', A/HRC/25/59 GA, 'The use of mass digital surveillance for counter-terrorism purposes, and implications of bulk access technology for the right to privacy under article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,' A/69/397
Special Rapporteur on **torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment Mr **Juan Méndez**	HRC, 'The use of torture-tainted information and the exclusionary rule', A/HRC/25/60 GA, 'The role of forensic science regarding the obligation of States to effectively investigate and prosecute allegations of torture', A/69/387
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Mali** Mr **Suliman Baldo**	HRC, 'Political and security situation and institutional reforms undertaken by Mali since the end of the severe crisis triggered in January 2012 and the return to constitutional order,' A/HRC/25/72
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar** Ms **Yanghee Lee**	HRC, 'Reflection on the extent of progress made during the course of the mandate holders six year tenure,' A/HRC/25/64 (Tomás Ojea Quintana)

	GA, 'Preliminary key areas of focus and recommendations aimed at contributing to Myanmar's efforts towards respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and achieving democratization, national reconciliation and development,' A/69/398
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Palestinian territories occupied since 1967** Mr **Makarim Wibisono**	HRC, 'Final report of the Special Rapporteur,' A/HRC/25/67 (Mr Richard Falk) GA, 'Next steps towards the fulfilment of the mandates,' A/69/301 and A/69/301/Corr.1
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other **business** enterprises	HRC, 'Review of strategic objectives, activities and outcomes since creation of the Working Group in 2011 and an overview on the challenges ahead', A/HRC/26/25 HRC, "Business Impacts and Non-judicial Access to Remedy: Emerging Global Experience", A/HRC/26/25/Add.3 GA, 'National action plans to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights', A/69/263
Special Rapporteur on the right to **education** Mr **Kishore Singh**	HRC, 'Assessment of students' educational attainment and the implementation of the right to education', A/HRC/26/27 GA, 'Privatization in education', A/69/402
Special Rapporteur on extreme **poverty** and human rights Mr **Philip Alston**	HRC, 'Taxation and human rights', A/HRC/26/28 and A/HRC/26/28/Corr.1 (Ms Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona) HRC, 'Overview of the activities of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights during the term of her mandate 2008-2014', A/HRC/26/28/Add.3 (Ms Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona) GA, 'Implementation of right to social security through the universal adoption of social protection floors', A/69/297
Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly** and of association Mr **Maina Kiai**	HRC, 'Challenges faced by groups most at risk when exercising or seeking to exercise the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and/or of association', A/HRC/26/29 GA, 'Exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the context of multilateral institutions: the impact of State actions at the multilateral level on civil society's ability to engage and participate in social, economic, political and other pursuits', A/69/365
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and	HRC, 'Freedom of expression in elections',

protection of the right to **freedom of opinion and expression** Mr **David Kaye**	A/HRC/26/30 (Mr Frank La Rue) GA, 'The right of the child to freedom of expression', A/69/335 (Mr. Frank La Rue)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental **health** Mr **Dainius Pūras**	HRC, 'Unhealthy foods and non-communicable diseases', A/HRC/26/31 (Mr Anand Grover) GA, 'Effective and full implementation of the right to health framework', A/69/299
Special Rapporteur on the independence of **judges and lawyers** Ms **Gabriela Knaul**	HRC, 'Judicial accountability', A/HRC/26/32 GA, 'Justice and the post-2015 development agenda', A/69/294
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **internally displaced persons** Mr **Chaloka Beyani**	HRC: 'The Kampala Convention: key provisions and the progress made in its adoption and implementation', A/HRC/26/33 GA, 'The challenges of finding durable solutions for IDPs in urban settings', A/69/295
Independent Expert on human rights and international **solidarity** Ms **Virginia Dandan**	HRC, 'The process of constructing the draft declaration on the rights of peoples and individuals to international solidarity', A/HRC/26/34 HRC, 'Preliminary text of a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity', A/HRC/26/34/Add.1 GA, 'The contribution of intl. solidarity to the future SDGs, including an analysis of the proposed draft declaration on the right to international solidarity on three areas of concern relevant to the future goals: overcoming inequality, ending poverty and discrimination: building effective, accountable institutions and peaceful societies; international cooperation: strengthening implementation and revitalizing global partnerships', A/69/366
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **migrants** Mr **François Crépeau**	HRC, 'Labour exploitation', A/HRC/26/35 GA, 'Human rights of migrants in the post-2015 Agenda', A/69/302
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary **executions** Mr **Christof Heyns**	HRC, 'Protection of the right to life during law enforcement', A/HRC/26/36 GA, 'Overview of the activities of the mandate', A/69/265
Special Rapporteur on **trafficking** in persons, especially women and children	HRC, 'Analysis of the first decade of the mandate', A/HRC/26/37 (Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo)

Ms **Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**	
	Stocktaking exercise on the work of the mandate on its 10th anniversary, A/HRC/26/37/Add.2
	(Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo)
	GA, 'Analysis of the major areas of focus and main achievements of the mandate since its inception', A/69/269 (Ms Joy Ngozi-Ezeilo
Special Rapporteur **on violence against women**, its causes and consequences	HRC, 'Violence against women: twenty years of developments within the United Nations', A/HRC/26/38
Ms **Rashida Manjoo**	
	GA, 'Violence against women as a barrier to the realization of women's civil, political, economic, social, cultural and developmental rights, and the effective exercise of citizenship rights', A/69/368
Working Group on the issue of **discrimination against women** in law and in practice	HRC, 'Discrimination against women in economic and social life', A/HRC/26/39
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	HRC, 'Racism on the internet and social media', A/HRC/26/49
	HRC, 'Combatting glorification of Nazism and other practices', A/HRC/26/50
Mr **Mutuma Ruteere**	
	GA, 'Racism in sports', A/69/340
	GA, 'Glorification of Nazism: inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance', A/69/334
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**	HRC, 'Direction in fulfilling the mandate, building on the findings and recommendations of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea', A/HRC/26/43
Mr **Marzuki Darusman**	
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by **older persons**	HRC, 'Preliminary considerations and views about the foundations and context of the mandate', A/HRC/27/46
Ms **Rosa Kornfeld-Matte**	
Working Group on **arbitrary detention**	HRC, A compilation of national, regional and international laws, regulations and practices on the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention before court', A/HRC/27/47
	HRC, 'Military Justice. Over-incarceration. Protective custody', A/HRC/27/48
Working Group on enforced or involuntary **disappearances**	HRC, 'Activities, communications and cases of the mandate', A/HRC/27/49

Working Group on the use of **mercenaries** as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	HRC, 'National laws and regulations on private military and security companies in Africa and in Asia', A/HRC/27/50
	GA, 'The UN's use of private military and security companies', A/69/338
Independent Expert on the promotion of a **democratic and equitable international order**	HRC, 'Preliminary study of the adverse impacts of military spending on the realization of a democratic and equitable international order', A/HRC/27/51
Mr **Alfred de Zayas**	
	GA, 'The right of self-determination', A/69/272
Special Rapporteur on the rights of **indigenous peoples**	HRC, 'Preliminary reflections on the status of operationalization of international standards related to indigenous peoples', A/HRC/27/52
Ms **Victoria Tauli Corpuz**	
	GA, 'Indigenous peoples' economic, social and cultural rights in the post-2015 development framework', A/69/267
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **slavery**, including its causes and its consequences	HRC, 'Priorities of the mandate', A/HRC/27/53
Ms **Urmila Bhoola**	
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of **hazardous substances and wastes**	HRC, 'Overview of the mandate', A/HRC/27/54
Mr **Baskut Tuncak**	
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking **water and sanitation**	HRC, 'Common violations of the human rights to water and sanitation', A/HRC/27/55
Ms **Catarina de Albuquerque**	HRC, 'Handbook for realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation', A/HRC/27/55/Add.3
	GA, 'Participation in the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation', A/69/213
Special Rapporteur on the promotion **of truth, justice, reparation** and guarantees of **non-recurrence**	HRC, 'Prosecution strategies in the aftermath of conflict and/or repression', A/HRC/27/56
Mr **Pablo de Greiff**	GA, 'Reparation for victims in the aftermath of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law', A/69/518
Working Group of Experts on **People of African Descent**	HRC, 'People of African descent: access to justice', A/HRC/27/68
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Cambodia**	HRC, 'Reflections on the work of the Special Rapporteur for the six years of his mandate,' A/HRC/27/70
Mr **Surya Prasad**	(Mr Surya Subedi)

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Somalia**	HRC, 'Analysis of the human rights situation and emerging issues in Somalia', A/HRC/27/71
Mr **Bahame Nyanduga** Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Belarus** Mr **Miklós Haraszti**	GA, 'State of freedom of association and the impact of the legal framework and legal practices on non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders in Belarus', A/69/307

Annex VII

Joint statements

On 18 August 2013, the Coordination Committee issued a press release on the situation of human rights in Egypt.

On 2 October 2013, at the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants, the Committee facilitated the issuance of an open letter and a press release on the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on behalf of all mandate holders.

On 10 December 2013, the Coordination Committee initiated a declaration on behalf of all mandate holders focusing on cooperation with special procedures and related challenges.

On 20 January 2014, the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee participated in the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic and delivered a statement on behalf of the Coordination Committee.

On 21 January 2014, the Coordination Committee issued an open letter in advance of the Geneva II conference on the conflict on Syria.

On 21 February 2014, the Coordination Committee issued a statement on the situation on human rights in Ukraine.

On 23 July 2014, at the request of the Coordination Committee, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, participated in the 21st special session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. He delivered a statement on his and the Coordination Committee's behalf.

On 1 September 2014, the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee participated in the 22nd special session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups and delivered a statement on behalf of the Coordination Committee.

On 10 December 2014, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, special procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement on climate change and human rights.

Annex VIII

Mandate holders attending the twenty-first annual meeting

Thematic mandates

1.	Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France (France)
2.	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Mads Andenas (Norway)
3.	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	Farida Shaheed (Pakistan)
4.	Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	Alfred de Zayas (United States of America)
5.	Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice	Frances Raday (Israel/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
6.	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	Jasminka Dzumhur (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
7.	Special Rapporteur on the right to education	Kishore Singh (India)
8.	Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	John Knox (United States of America)
9.	Special Rapporteur on the right to food	Hilal Elver (Turkey)
10.	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	David Kaye (United States of America)
11.	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany)
12.	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Dainius Puras (Lithuania)
13.	Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living	Leilani Farha (Canada)

14.	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	Michel Forst (France)
15.	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	Gabriela Knaul (Brazil)
16.	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines)
17.	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	Chaloka Beyani (Zambia)
18.	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	Patricia Arias (Chile)
19.	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	François Crépeau (Canada/France)
20.	Special Rapporteur on minority issues	Rita Izsák (Hungary)
21.	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	Rosa Kornfeld-Matte (Chile)
22.	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Maud De Boer-Buquicchio (Netherlands)
23.	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences.	Urmila Bhoola (South Africa)
24.	Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	Virginia Dandan (Philippines)
25.	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Christof Heyns (South Africa)
26.	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Juan Ernesto Mendez (Argentina)
27.	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	Baskut Tuncak (Turkey)
28.	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy)
29.	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	Michael K. Addo (Ghana)
30.	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	Rashida Manjoo (South Africa)
31.	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	Juan Bohoslavsky (Argentina)
32.	Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	Catarina de Albuquerque (Portugal)

Country-specific mandates

37.	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	Surya Prasad Subedi (Nepal)
38.	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic	Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire)
39.	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	Sheila B. Keetharuth (Mauritius)

Annex IX

Non-exhaustive list of follow-up activities undertaken by mandate holders in 2014

A. Follow-up concerning communications

In 2014, 135 follow-up communications were sent, out of a total of 553 communications, constituting 24%. In addition, the following mandate holders issued observations on communications:

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment	Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received (A/HRC/25/60/Add.2)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received (A/HRC/25/55/Add.3)
Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of assembly and of association	Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received (A/HRC/26/29/Add.1)
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received (A/HRC/26/36/add.2)

B. Follow-up country visits

Six mandate holders conducted in total eleven follow-up visits:

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Follow-up visit to Italy from 7 to 9 July 2014 (report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	Follow-up visit to Kenya from 29 April to 7 May 2014 (no separate report will be presented to the Human Rights Council)
	Follow-up working visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 16 to 20 June 2014 (no separate report will be presented to the Human Rights Council)
	Follow-up visit to Serbia, including Kosovo[a], from 9 to 12 October 2013, of which the report was presented to the

[a] All references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

	Council at its twenty-sixth session (A/HRC/26/33/Add.2)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	Follow-up visit to Italy from 2 to 5 December 2014 (report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session)
	Follow-up visit to Malta from 6 to 10 December 2014 (report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	Follow-up visit to Mauritania from 2 to 8 September 2013 (A/HRC/26/49/Add.1)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Follow-up visit to Honduras from 21 to 25 April 2014 (A/HRC/25/48/Add.1)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences	Follow-up visit to Kazakhstan from 25 to 27 March 2014 (A/HRC/27/53/Add.2)
	Follow-up visit to Mauritania from 24 to 27 February 2014 (A/HRC/27/53/Add.1)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment	Follow-up visit to Tunisia from 4 to 6 June 2014 (report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session)
	Follow-up visit to Tajikistan from 10 to 13 February 2014 (report will be presented the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session)
	Follow-up visit to Uruguay from 2 to 6 December 2012 (A/HRC/22/53/Add.3)

C Follow-up consultations, workshops and other meetings

Three mandate holders took part in follow-up consultations, workshops and other meetings:

The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Round-table discussions with civil society and high-level Government representatives, held during follow-up visits by mandate holders to Tajikistan and Tunisia in February and June 2014 respectively.
The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	- Interreligious round table, held in Cyprus, on 12 September 2013.
	- Round table with religious communities and civil society organizations, held in the Republic of Moldova, during a working visit to the country, from 15 to

	18 May 2014.

D. Follow-up reports

Three Special Rapporteurs and one Working Group presented reports in which they followed up on their recommendations made to States:

Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	Follow-up report to their country missions to Argentina and Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/HRC/27/49/Add.2)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	Follow-up report on Georgia (A/HRC/26/33/Add.1)
	Follow-up report on Serbia, including Kosovo (A/HRC/26/33/Add.2)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	Report analyzing the achievements of the first decade of the mandate (A/HRC/26/37)
	- Report analyzing the major areas of focus and main achievements of the mandate since its inception (A/69/33797)
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	- Addendum to report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Summary of activities of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, 2008-2014 (A/HRC/26/28/Add.3)

E. Other follow-up activities

One mandate holder undertook other additional follow-up activities:

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment	Follow-up publication: Torture in Health-Care Settings: Reflections on the Special Rapporteur on Torture's 2013 Thematic Report, February 2014, Washington D.C., released February 2014. Follow-up publication: Next Steps Towards a Human Rights Penitentiary System in Uruguay: Reflections on the Implementation of the 2009 and 2013 Recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, released in September 2014.

Annex X

Statement by the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee

We, special procedures mandate holders, have taken note with interest of Human Rights Council resolution 26/11, adopted on 23 June 2014, on the "protection of the family", and the panel discussion on 15 September 2014.

We note with appreciation the emphasis on the structural problems of care responsibilities and the need to redistribute them not only between women and men, as was established by CEDAW in 1980, but also between the family and the State. We are also reassured that in the panel discussion, there was general acceptance that families are diverse and in this context, there should be no discrimination; and that violence within the family should be eliminated. We trust that the Human Rights Council will incorporate these positive elements in all its future work, in accordance with international standards.

Yet we want to express our concern regarding the fact that the resolution made no reference to women's right to equality within the family and the panel discussion erroneously equated the protection of the family with the protection of the rights of individual members of the family, in particular the rights of women to equality.

We recall that the right to equality between women and men in the family is guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

We therefore call on the Human Rights Council to ensure that in all future resolutions, concept notes and reports on the issue of the family, the right to equality between women and men and between girls and boys within the family be explicitly included as a fundamental human right.

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Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Technical assistance to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction at the national level

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/20, in which the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the technical assistance provided by his Office to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction at the national level, for submission at its twenty-eighth session.

The report provides examples illustrating the type of technical assistance and advisory services provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, alone or with other United Nations entities, to promote inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction.

The report highlights methodologies, good practices and lessons learned that have been gathered by the Office in the field and at headquarters.

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I. Introduction and methodology

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/20, in which the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the technical assistance provided by his Office to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction at the national level, for submission its twenty-eighth session. The present report will serve as a basis for a thematic panel discussion to be held at the twenty-eighth session of the Council under item 10 of its agenda.

2. In its resolution 27/20, the Council reaffirmed that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development, and emphasized the role of national policies and strategies in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It encouraged States to ensure that such policies and strategies are devised and carried out in a non-discriminatory, participatory, transparent and accountable manner, in order to promote the empowerment of the poorest and most disadvantaged and the realization of their rights. It emphasized the need for States to engage with and promote free, informed and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially in decision-making that directly affects their lives. The Council also encouraged States' action to ensure transparency and accountability by providing accessible and adequate information.

3. The present report covers a period of five years (2009–2014), as a reasonable time frame within which incipient results can be provided. It illustrates the type of work carried out under the technical cooperation programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in response to requests and expressions of interest from Member States. It presents initiatives that have shown good potential in promoting inclusive and participatory policies and strategies for development and poverty reduction, in line with the priority areas identified by the Human Rights Council in resolution 27/20. The report also includes a number of joint initiatives carried out by OHCHR in cooperation with other United Nations entities.

4. The report highlights methodologies, good practices and lessons learned gathered by OHCHR in the field and at headquarters. Reference is also made to the OHCHR report on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies (A/HRC/27/41), which provides an overview of technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies and includes some examples with regard to strengthening participation and social inclusion, which are developed further in the present report.

II. Human rights-based framework for technical cooperation, development and poverty reduction

5. Lack of economic resources is seldom the only or even the most decisive cause of poverty, marginalization and social exclusion. From a human rights perspective, poverty is understood as the denial of a person's capacity to realize and enjoy a range of key rights, such as the rights to food, health, education, security, access to justice and political participation. International human rights law also calls for more than mere equality of opportunity without regard to the underlying structures that perpetuate inequality, social exclusion and poverty. What is required under the international human rights framework in order to achieve de facto equality for all is the dismantling of barriers to social, economic and political freedoms, and the establishment of special measures to end discrimination.

OHCHR work to support inclusive development and poverty reduction follows a human rights-based approach, which fully recognizes the multidimensional nature of poverty.

6. Discrimination is generally deeply embedded in societal structures and makes certain groups of people more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion. For instance, women are more likely to find themselves in situations of poverty as a result of gender-based discrimination. Such discrimination, which persists in all regions of the world, is at the root of women's disproportionate burden of domestic and care work, women getting low-paid, precarious jobs, the lack of adequate attention paid to women's specific health needs, and widespread violence against women, among other rights violations. Those violations reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty.

7. Under international human rights law, all individuals have the right to access information freely and to participate in decisions that affect them. In order to assume that active role, they need to be able to exercise their civil and political rights in an effective and meaningful way. Experience has shown that the active participation of all sectors of society in national efforts aimed at development and poverty reduction significantly enhances the likelihood of sustainable results being attained. For such approaches to achieve their full potential, they should be used at all stages of the development process, from conceptualization through implementation, monitoring and evaluation. To be effective, development and poverty reduction strategies also need to empower people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, to claim their rights, and develop the capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations. That includes building strong judicial, political and administrative mechanisms for accountability and service delivery.

8. Promoting the participation of rights-holders, especially women and individuals from discriminated groups, in decision-making processes is one of the expected accomplishments set out in the OHCHR Management Plan 2014–2017, which guides the work of OHCHR at the country, regional and global levels. The OHCHR technical cooperation programme is intended to help States to identify and address gaps in knowledge, capacity and accountability that obstruct the protection of all human rights. Throughout its work, OHCHR supports States in meeting their international human rights obligations, including implementing the recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms — the treaty bodies, special procedures and the universal periodic review. To that end, OHCHR works directly with governments, at their request, and actively cooperates with all relevant national stakeholders, including ministries, parliaments, the judiciary, transitional justice mechanisms, security institutions, national human rights institutions and civil society, as well as statistical and information systems. OHCHR also supports mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups, including equality bodies, and cooperates with development actors, civil society and community-based organizations to enable them to assume their roles as informed and effective participants at all stages of national development processes. OHCHR-led projects and initiatives in the context of national development and poverty reduction include human rights assessments, providing technical advice on institution-building, strengthening legislation and policies, promoting effective and meaningful participation, training and capacity-building, as well as sharing good practices among States.

9. At the country level, OHCHR supports States to ensure that their national development and poverty reduction strategies are in line with their human rights obligations, and fully incorporate the basic principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability and the rule of law. In many cases, United Nations country teams or individual United Nations entities can play an effective role to support the integration of human rights into national development policies. In that regard, OHCHR is active in mainstreaming human rights within United Nations development policies, operational activities and assistance frameworks, including through strengthening the United Nations

leadership on human rights at the country level and promoting the application of a coherent human rights-based approach to programming. OHCHR also works with regional and subregional organizations to strengthen regional arrangements for human rights promotion and protection, including through the exchange of good practices and experiences of human rights-based, participatory and inclusive strategies for development and poverty reduction.

10. The Office receives strategic policy guidance for its technical cooperation work from the Board of Trustees that oversees the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review — two key financial sources of the technical assistance provided by OHCHR. As part of its advisory role, the Board has identified several key elements for effective technical cooperation, as indicated in the report of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (A/HRC/26/51, para. 27). Many of those elements are reflected in the practices highlighted in the present report.

III. National experiences of support for inclusive and participatory development and poverty eradication

A. Legislation, plans and policies for inclusive poverty reduction and development

Colombia: human rights support for inclusive development and poverty reduction

11. In November 2011, the Government of Colombia established a new administrative Department for Social Prosperity (DSP) as the central authority responsible for developing and implementing policies aimed at overcoming poverty and promoting the social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations. At the request of the Department, OHCHR has been supporting its work by conducting systematic monitoring, evaluation and advocacy to strengthen the integration of human rights standards into the implementation of public policies. OHCHR has paid particular attention to two key social protection programmes: "Más Familias en Acción", which provides direct monetary transfers to families, conditional upon children's enrolment in school and regular medical check-ups, and "Red Unidos", which helps families living in extreme poverty through individualized support and follow-up.

12. In February 2014, the OHCHR office in Colombia presented DSP with its first report on the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, with strategic recommendations on how to improve the impact of the DSP programmes. That included strengthening the rights of women covered by the "Más Familias en Acción" programme; removing barriers to health care for children and barriers to education for children with disabilities; addressing obstacles in the application of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries; improving coordination among government entities; addressing the situation of people living in extreme poverty; and strengthening access to adequate housing. DSP established a working group with officials from the regions concerned to implement OHCHR recommendations.

13. Since the submission of its report to DSP, OHCHR has continued to work towards the empowerment of vulnerable communities in the most marginalized parts of the country. That has included, inter alia, informing communities about the DSP programmes, assisting

them in evaluating the implementation of the recommendations, and supporting them in claiming their rights before the Department.

Europe: promoting the independence of persons with disabilities and family-type care for children

14. In 2014, the OHCHR Regional Office for Europe continued engaging with the European Union and its Member States through the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care. That coalition of international organizations and European civil society organizations is dedicated to upholding the human rights of vulnerable persons who are in care institutions, or are at risk of being placed in institutional care. In that context, OHCHR is working with other United Nations entities, especially the United Nations Children's Fund, to contribute to important policy changes at the European Union level, such as adjustments in European Union structural and investment funds regulations. That has increased the level of compliance of European Union member States with international human rights standards, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

15. With the financial and political support of the European Commission, national consultations on community-based care have been organized in Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia, involving a broad range of stakeholders, such as relevant ministries, national human rights institutions, European Union officials and national civil society organizations representing rights-holders. In all of those countries, institutionalization is the predominant form of care, and wide-ranging reforms will be required to bring national practice into line with States' obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. For the reforms to be effective, the full involvement of rights-holders and civil society will be required at all stages of the process. Capacity-building of all actors — government officials, who often have limited expertise in that technical area, but also civil society representatives, who need to be empowered — is essential for the success of the reform process. In that regard, the national consultations initiated by OHCHR have been useful in ensuring the engagement of all relevant actors.

Kenya: integration of human rights and gender into the national development agenda

16. Kenya Vision 2030 is the main national development framework and is aimed at transforming Kenya into a newly industrialized middle-income country that provides a high quality of life for all its citizens by 2030. It also sets out to create a cohesive, equitable and just society based on democratic principles and grounded in the country's rich and diverse cultures. Kenya Vision 2030 is to be implemented through successive five-year medium-term plans, which define sector-specific priorities, key policy actions and reform programmes for government agents at different levels.

17. In 2012, the Government of Kenya invited the United Nations to provide inputs for the preparation of the second medium-term plan. The United Nations participated in several of the sector-specific working groups set up to support the development of the plan. OHCHR, through the Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country team, took the lead in providing human rights guidance on the process, notably with regard to governance, the rule of law, security, the situation of vulnerable groups, gender and youth.

18. An important element of the preparation of the second medium-term plan consisted of developing the capacity of key stakeholders to engage effectively in the planning process. OHCHR supported that effort by training government representatives and United Nations staff members on human rights-based approaches. In addition, it trained focal points from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights who were designated to each sector-specific working group. With OHCHR assistance, a set of human rights-based

indicators was developed to enable effective monitoring and ensure accountability in the implementation of the plan. That work resulted in the adoption of a national indicators handbook in November 2014.

Kyrgyzstan: building capacity for the promotion and protection of the right to adequate housing

19. In Kyrgyzstan, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia provided technical assistance in the preparation of the Housing Code that was adopted in May 2013. OHCHR organized three parliamentary discussions on the draft code, which were attended by civil society and representatives of housing associations. The discussions were instrumental in raising awareness among relevant Parliamentary committees about the importance of human rights considerations for the drafting of housing legislation. The discussions enabled parliamentarians to hear independent views, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in the legislative process.

20. Throughout the legislative process, OHCHR provided human rights advice and technical assistance to the drafters. The final text reflects many important aspects of the right to adequate housing, as set out in relevant international norms and standards. It defines the roles and responsibilities of the national and local self-government bodies in relation to the right to housing and obliges the Government to create a national housing fund to address resource constraints.

21. The OHCHR Regional Office also played a key role in mobilizing joint advocacy by the donor community on the need for a human rights-based approach to urban planning in the context of development-based evictions, including in the south of Kyrgyzstan. Those efforts were successful in gaining the support of the Mayor of Osh, who publicly committed to taking human rights into account when implementing the Master Plan in Osh. In July 2014, on the basis of OHCHR advocacy, the President of Kyrgyzstan signed a law that obliged local authorities to post adopted master plans of all cities, towns and villages on their websites, and to display them in their offices for public reference.

22. The Regional Office also provided technical assistance to the Government in drafting the National Strategy on Sustainable Development 2013–2017. The Strategy goes some way towards embracing the principle of participatory development and emphasizes the importance of upholding the rights of all minorities in the development process.

Republic of Moldova: strengthening the national framework for social inclusion and anti-discrimination

23. Through the Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country team, OHCHR support to the Government of the Republic of Moldova on anti-discrimination legislation began in 2008 and has contributed to the development of critical laws, translating the international prohibition against discrimination into domestic legislation. OHCHR thus provided advice for the development of the Law on Ensuring Equality and to the subsequent establishment of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality ("Equality Council"). In May 2013, OHCHR advocacy led the Republic of Moldova to accept the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to review individual complaints and petitions. OHCHR also provided advice on the development of the Law on Roma Community Mediators, which was adopted on 22 March 2013 in order to promote the social inclusion of the Roma, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. OHCHR also assisted in the development of the Law on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in March 2012, which requires equal legal capacity and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

24. OHCHR has provided extensive support to the Equality Council, including in the development of its strategic plan and operational structure. In that context, OHCHR held training courses on national and international anti-discrimination standards and on the freedom of religion and belief legislation in place in the Republic of Moldova. OHCHR also organized further training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and members of the Equality Council on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The awareness-raising campaign was well received and an increasing number of cases relating to gender equality, discrimination and hate speech are now being adjudicated by Moldovan courts.

Paraguay: capacity development for inclusive and rights-based poverty reduction

25. In 2013/2014, at the Government's request, OHCHR, through its Human Rights Adviser, supported the work of the Secretariat for Social Action to integrate human rights into its policymaking and implementation. The eradication of poverty is a government priority and the Secretariat is the main implementing agency for the relevant policies, working directly with communities in rural areas and among indigenous peoples.

26. OHCHR technical support has allowed the Secretariat for Social Action to revise its institutional framework, so as to integrate human rights into its policies, methodologies and communication materials, including its website. OHCHR also contributed by running an intensive training programme and assisting in the development of a special protocol on indigenous peoples' rights and their participation in decision-making, following consultations facilitated by OHCHR with indigenous peoples. It will be the first protocol of its kind in the region directly addressing key issues relating to consultation and participation.

27. The project has benefited from continuous political support from the highest levels, and has been successful in gradually integrating a stronger human rights perspective into the way the Secretariat carries out its functions. Work is now under way to introduce a human rights indicators framework, based on detailed disaggregated data, for the monitoring of poverty reduction programmes. In 2015, community leaders and families will also be trained in how to take a more active and informed role in decision-making and policymaking that affect their lives. Further support is also in the pipeline to mainstream gender into the work programme in close cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

State of Palestine: an inclusive and rights-based framework for development

28. In 2011, the Ministry of Justice of the Palestinian National Authority requested OHCHR assistance in developing a rights-based framework for the national development agenda. Broad-based national consultations, aimed at identifying rights-based targets for prioritization in the national development plan that was being drafted in parallel, were launched at a large public conference in Ramallah on 10 December 2012. In follow-up to the conference, a team of Palestinian consultants, with OHCHR support, analysed development gaps and needs from a human rights perspective, including through broad-based consultations and validation workshops, which provided input from a range of stakeholders, including government officials and representatives of the Palestinian human rights institution, civil society, community-based organizations, labour and employers' unions, academia and affected groups, as well as United Nations entities and the diplomatic community. The result was a comprehensive guidance document setting out ways to incorporate human rights more effectively into the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016 and other future development and recovery frameworks.

29. The guidance document was finalized by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development and OHCHR in January 2014, and launched at a

formal signing ceremony, confirming the Government's commitment to the process. The majority of recommendations set out in the guidance document were integrated into the Palestinian National Development Plan in February 2014, providing a strong human rights-based framework for the four sectors covered by the Plan: social development, economic development, infrastructure and governance.

30. The accession of the State of Palestine to seven of the core international human rights treaties in April 2014 has provided an opportunity for OHCHR to build on the work described above with the Palestinian authorities, as well as the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society, so that the political commitments contained in the Palestinian National Development Plan are implemented in accordance with the legal obligations contained in the treaties. Broad-based consultations are planned as part of the Government's reporting exercise.

Sierra Leone: responding to the Ebola virus disease outbreak

31. In May 2014, Sierra Leone experienced the start of its first outbreak of the Ebola virus disease. In addition to the death and human suffering caused by the epidemic, the knock-on effects will be devastating for the development of Sierra Leone in the coming years and may erode the gains made since the end of the war. The consequences are not limited to the health sector, as large parts of the country's economy are being severely disrupted by the epidemic. Schools have also been closed following the declaration of a state of emergency, which seeks to control the spread of the disease by limiting public gatherings and freedom of movement. Likewise, courts are reportedly not processing criminal cases. That has led to a steady increase in the prison population, which besides increasing health risks among prisoners, fuels the potential for disturbances inside detention facilities.

32. Recognizing the Government's role in bringing Ebola virus disease under control and providing emergency humanitarian assistance, the United Nations in Sierra Leone has significantly strengthened its response in support of the Government's ongoing efforts. Since his arrival in April 2014, the Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country team[1] has provided substantive guidance to alert policymakers and the humanitarian sector to the serious human rights implications and concerns related to the outbreak, especially regarding vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

33. As the combined efforts of the Government and the international community gather pace, it is essential that a human rights approach be continuously applied to guide the work of the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, to inform advocacy by relevant stakeholders and to serve as an early warning system for the United Nations and the Government. The Human Rights Adviser is also working to promote increased participation and inclusiveness in the response to the outbreak. It will be crucial to ensure that the impending recovery and reconstruction effort is conducted in a transparent and accountable manner, in accordance with a human rights-based approach.

West Africa: integration of women's rights and empowerment in national policies

34. Over the past several years, the OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa has continued to promote the integration of women's rights into the development and implementation of national policies and strategies in the region. In Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Senegal, national action plans have been adopted for the implementation of

[1] The Human Rights Adviser was deployed under the United Nations Development Group human rights mainstreaming mechanism.

Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in conflicts. OHCHR provided financial and technical support for the development, validation and publication of the action plans, and contributed to building the capacity of stakeholders to ensure implementation. In the Gambia, OHCHR supported the implementation of the national action plan by providing technical and financial assistance, including training of trainers workshops on human rights and gender-based violence for law enforcement officials.

35. Progress has also been made regarding the harmonization of national laws with international human rights standards. In Senegal, OHCHR provided advice on the development of a law allowing women to pass on their nationality to their children or spouse. The Office also worked with civil society to raise public awareness of the law after its adoption in 2013. In 2013, OHCHR assisted the Government to prepare its report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. During the elections held in 2012 and 2014, the Regional Office supported civil society in monitoring the implementation of the 2010 parity law on the participation of women in national politics. In 2014, OHCHR supported the process of preparing a manual on gender and human rights for parliamentarians, and undertook capacity-building for women parliamentarians.

Yemen: inclusive and participatory management of land disputes

36. Since May 2013, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Yemen have been engaged in a joint project on transitional justice in support of the Commission to Consider and Address Land Issues (the Land Commission) and the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees for Southern Yemen (the Dismissals Commission). Both commissions were established in 2013 as confidence-building measures to address the root causes of grievances held by people in southern Yemen following the 1994 war. A special Compensation Fund has also been established for cases of land confiscation and alleged summary dismissal of civil security and military personnel.

37. So far, the Land Commission has received more than 100,000 individual claims concerning illegal confiscations, of which 30,000 had been resolved at the time of writing. The Dismissals Commission has received over 100,000 applications, of which 20,000 had been processed by December 2014. The commissions and the compensation fund suffer from chronic financial and staff shortages, and weak political support.

38. The joint OHCHR-UNDP project has promoted transparency and accountability, including through a strategy to allow civil society to monitor the work of the commissions and the implementation of their recommendations. OHCHR and UNDP organized study visits for the staff of the commissions to Germany and Peru in order to expose them to experiences and good practices used to resolve similar cases and apply high standards of transparency and accountability. The project supported the establishment of interactive web portals for both commissions, enabling individuals to monitor progress in the processing of their cases. Throughout the project, there has also been regular cooperation with local media to encourage press coverage, interviews with decision-makers and investigative journalism. The decisions of the two commissions have yet to be implemented. OHCHR and UNDP will continue their advocacy with international and local partners to keep the issue at the centre of the Government's political and development agenda.

B. Empowerment for free, informed and meaningful participation in public decision-making

Cambodia: building local capacities in regard to land and housing rights

39. The OHCHR office in Cambodia has continued its work to build greater human rights awareness among indigenous communities, particularly regarding the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as land and housing rights. OHCHR monitored ongoing and unresolved disputes between indigenous communities, authorities and businesses, and engaged in the facilitation of dialogue, court monitoring and the provision of legal and procedural advice. In 2013 and 2014, OHCHR also provided support to 11 indigenous communities to complete their registration as legal entities and submit their applications for collective land titles. As a result, those communities are now in a stronger position to defend and claim their rights to land and livelihood.

40. OHCHR Cambodia also produced publications on land and housing rights, as well as a picture book for indigenous peoples on business and human rights, prepared in cooperation with an indigenous peoples' network organization. The aim is to gradually strengthen the role of indigenous communities in national protection systems and, through increased knowledge and understanding, to allow them to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them. To that end, since 2013 OHCHR has been providing training for civil society organizations and communities on monitoring economic, social and cultural rights, and on implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Information on business and human rights was also shared with the Government's Anti-Corruption Unit, donors, businesses and professional associations.

41. OHCHR continued to monitor legislative developments that could affect indigenous peoples' land and housing rights. That included support for the consultation process for a bill on environmental impact assessments, led by the Ministry of the Environment. OHCHR facilitated participation in the consultation process by indigenous leaders and other representatives of communities affected by development projects and involved in land disputes. The Office also provided advice on the harmonization of the draft bill with international standards.

42. OHCHR has also been engaged in promoting and protecting the exercise of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. In 2013, it organized five training sessions on the implementation of the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and international standards on freedom of expression and assembly. The training outlined the respective responsibilities of organizers of demonstrations and authorities, and gave guidance to participants on how to conduct demonstrations in accordance with the law. In addition, OHCHR trained staff of non-governmental organizations on how to monitor the right to peaceful assembly. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, OHCHR also produced a laminated card outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of organizers of demonstrations and local authorities. The card is being disseminated among government officials, civil society and the general public. In addition, OHCHR produced a series of radio broadcasts in which local organizations participated and discussed issues relating to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Colombia: promoting the right of indigenous peoples to prior, free and informed consultation

43. In the context of increasing demands from communities of African descent and indigenous peoples for their rights to prior consultation and free and informed consent to be recognized, OHCHR developed a project to hold broad-based consultations with the communities concerned in the course of 2012. OHCHR invited indigenous, Afro-

Colombian, Palenquero, Raizal and Roma peoples to be part of the process. It included a series of 82 regional dialogues organized and facilitated by OHCHR across the country. About 3,000 delegates from the regions of the Caribbean, Pacific, Orinoco, Amazonia and inter-Andean valleys participated in the process, which was instrumental in mobilizing national consensus on the importance of prior, free and informed consultation.

44. The observations and findings that came out of the process were compiled and documented by OHCHR in a report entitled "Voices and key opinions from the ethnic peoples of Colombia on the right to consultation and to free, prior and informed consent". OHCHR subsequently engaged with the Ministry of the Interior to encourage the adoption of protocols that ensure the right to participation, consultation and free and informed consent through culturally sensitive procedures.

45. As an important part of that process, some ethnic groups, including the indigenous Wayuu and Arhuaco peoples and the communities of African descent of La Toma, were provided with advice to increase their capacity to claim their rights and participate in decision-making. OHCHR also held training sessions on the right to prior consultation for staff of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as municipal and regional authorities. Training on indigenous people's rights was also provided to civil servants, civil society representatives and students.

Guatemala: strengthening capacity to guarantee the fulfilment of agricultural workers' labour rights

46. In Guatemala, the OHCHR country office provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour in the preparation of a handbook that could be used to verify the fulfilment of agricultural workers' labour rights. It also promoted and supported the creation of a working group on agricultural workers' human rights, composed of peasant workers, grass-roots organizations and labour unions. A participatory methodology proposed by OHCHR was adopted by the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour to launch the process of drafting the handbook. In 2012, four regional workshops were organized with the participation of 90 labour inspectors, who shared their experience and discussed the main challenges to respecting agricultural workers' labour rights in the country. OHCHR, in coordination with the ILO, provided inputs on the international human rights standards and supported the process of designing and drafting the handbook, which was also informed by issues raised by the working group. In 2014, the working group produced a report on the situation of agricultural workers in Guatemala and urged the Ministry of Labour to discuss some of the key human rights challenges identified in the report.

47. In 2014, the Minister of Labour was finalizing the approval process for the publication of the handbook as part of a general operations protocol for the General Inspectorate. The handbook reflects many important aspects of labour rights, such as the prohibition of child labour and forced labour, and of discrimination against women. The handbook will be a practical tool for labour inspectors to address the critical human rights situation that agricultural workers are facing in some regions of Guatemala.

Mexico: increasing participation through action plans

48. Since 2006, the OHCHR office in Mexico has been supporting the design of human rights plans, notably in partnership with the Directorate-General for Human Rights Public Policy of the Ministry of the Interior (Secretaría de Gobernación) at the federal level, and line ministries or human rights offices at state level. Since 2006, some 15 such plans have been developed. OHCHR assistance in supporting State efforts to secure the participation of civil society organizations and marginalized groups has been especially appreciated. Women's rights organizations were actively involved in the development of those plans, all

of which integrate a strong gender framework. One of the main objectives of OHCHR support to the federal plan was to strengthen cooperation between the authorities and civil society. Building on that collaborative effort, the Office has contributed to the elaboration of one national human rights assessment, three national human rights plans and several local human rights programmes.

49. The National Human Rights Programme 2014–2018, which was presented by the Federal Government on 25 June 2014, is the first programme of its kind in the country to explicitly adopt the OHCHR human rights indicators methodology, as well as the inter-American system indicators on economic, social and cultural rights, to measure the full realization of human rights. The next step will be to help start the development of human rights programmes at the level of the states.

Nepal: addressing the equality imperative

50. In September 2012, the Government of Nepal and the United Nations country team signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2013–2017. The strategic framework for the United Nations work in Nepal in those five years was prepared following human rights-based approach methodologies and has been acclaimed as a good example of an UNDAF.

51. Prior to the preparation of the UNDAF, the country team, with the support of OHCHR, prepared a common country analysis with a particular focus on the different types of vulnerability that people in Nepal face, as well as the root causes of the vulnerabilities. The aim was ultimately to help narrow down the potential policy and institutional issues that could form the core of the development efforts undertaken by the United Nations in Nepal. The country team used the analysis to understand the situation of vulnerable groups in the country, examine the structural causes of the vulnerabilities and gain a better understanding of which groups are particularly susceptible to future shocks that could substantially reverse the development gains achieved over recent years.

52. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the issue, the country analysis looked at specific groups of people, whose vulnerability was described on the basis of the experience and expertise of United Nations development actors. As a result, the following 19 groups were incorporated in the UNDAF design: women subject to sexual abuse and exploitation; women in the mid and far west; women of reproductive age; adolescent girls; endangered and highly marginalized indigenous people; other disadvantaged women and girls; Dalits; persons with disabilities; children without basic education; undernourished children; underemployed and unemployed youth; migrant workers and their families; rural landless and land-poor; bonded and forced labourers; urban slum dwellers and squatters; conflict-affected people; the illiterate; people from the lowest performing districts; and people from areas especially vulnerable to climate change. For each group, a detailed profile was prepared and reviewed with a wide range of stakeholders. The emphasis of the profiles was an analysis of the underlying causes of each group's vulnerability. An aggregate analysis was developed aimed at identifying, thematizing and categorizing the groups' characteristics and, perhaps most importantly, finding commonalities in the underlying causes of their vulnerabilities.

53. While social inclusion is the main thread linking all the efforts undertaken by the United Nations under UNDAF, specific programmes are designed and implemented that ensure the employment of targeted approaches to reach and have an impact on the lives of the 19 vulnerable groups that have been identified, and to promote their participation in decision-making processes. The United Nations actively contributed to the State's efforts to ensure that its policies are implemented in an inclusive manner, with due regard to gender considerations as well as the particular interests of marginalized regions and communities.

Uganda: multi-stakeholder dialogue on rights-based approaches to maternal and child mortality

54. High mortality rates among women and young children remain a major challenge in Uganda. The country also has one of the highest adolescent pregnancy rates in the world.

55. Since 2013, the OHCHR office in Uganda, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Health, has been supporting a multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed at promoting a human rights-based, participatory and inclusive approach in the national effort to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality. The initiative began with a regional workshop, held in Malawi in November 2013, which convened representatives of governments, national human rights institutions, civil society and United Nations entities from Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to explore ways to apply rights-based approaches to maternal and child mortality in their respective national contexts.

56. In follow-up to the workshop, OHCHR commissioned an assessment of the health and human rights situations of women and children in Uganda, and presented it in November 2014 to a national-level multi-stakeholder group organized in Kampala jointly with UNFPA, the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health. In addition to representatives of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the First Lady, and district-level officials, the group also included parliamentarians, representatives of private health-care providers, civil society, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the United Nations. The group considered the main findings of the OHCHR assessment and identified action points to support maternal and child health, including: advocacy for law reform and implementation of legislation (Penal Law, Marriage and Divorce Act and Death Registration Act); advocacy for greater participation in the State budget process; generation of more and better quality disaggregated data; and inclusion of human rights training in the curricula for health workers. The Government of Uganda committed itself to integrating human rights into upcoming planning activities, including the preparation of the National Development Plan.

57. The process has been helpful in bringing a wide range of stakeholders together and has served to raise awareness among civil society and government authorities concerning more fully embracing an inclusive and participatory approach to planning and decision-making. It is expected that the methodologies tested and developed under the project may become part of the standard national planning process and be replicated in other sectors.

United Republic of Tanzania: combating the exclusion of and violence against people with albinism

58. In the United Republic of Tanzania, people with albinism have long faced discrimination, exclusion and outright rejection by their families and society at large. Many also suffer from physical violence, as they are hunted down, mutilated and their amputated body parts used in witchcraft rituals. That extreme social exclusion has a devastating impact on children with albinism, who often find themselves unable to attend school because of discrimination, bullying and violence.

59. The authorities have taken measures to combat those crimes, and special centres have been set up under the auspices of civil society to provide safe havens for children with albinism. While welcoming those steps, OHCHR has continued to voice concern about the risk of isolation and institutionalization of those children, and emphasized the urgent need to reinforce the justice system in response to those crimes. People with albinism are often unable to access justice for the crimes committed against them and unwilling to testify for fear of reprisal and further victimization.

60. The Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country team[1] has helped raise awareness of the situation and promote a common understanding among the Government, the National Human Rights Institute, civil society and the United Nations on the need for a concerted and human rights-based approach to address the issue. A strong United Nations strategy for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with albinism is being developed, with a concrete action plan and monitoring framework, to complement the Government's efforts.

61. Violence against people with albinism is not specific to the United Republic of Tanzania. Since 2000, OHCHR has received information about more than 200 ritual attacks in 15 African States. It is believed that many attacks remain undocumented and unreported, owing to the stigma and secretiveness involved.

Zambia: promoting social inclusion of the Abatwa indigenous community

62. The Abatwa indigenous community in Zambia has long been subjected to discrimination, social exclusion and poverty. In an effort to raise awareness about that situation, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team initiated a project with the Office of the Vice-President of Zambia to produce a film documenting the situation of the Abatwa community. The Human Rights Adviser to the country team[1] provided guidance in order to ensure that the film would focus on the many challenges facing the Abatwa community in terms of marginalization and discrimination, and on the urgent need to ensure their participation in key decision-making. The documentary looks at the situation of the Abatwa from a human rights perspective and has become an important awareness-raising tool illustrating the deprivation and exclusion to which the Abatwa have been subjected. It has also helped identify priority areas for United Nations support to the Government to better address the situation of that vulnerable community.

C. Transparency, accountability and access to information

Ecuador: atlas of socioeconomic inequalities

63. Between 2011 and 2013, at the request of the Government of Ecuador, OHCHR and the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) engaged in close collaboration to strengthen the integration of human rights into the national development programme. The work resulted in the adoption of guidelines for the development of sectoral public policy and guidelines for the integration of a human rights-based approach into the national development plan and the development of an atlas of socioeconomic inequalities.

64. The atlas of socioeconomic inequalities, launched in 2013, was the result of close cooperation between SENPLADES, OHCHR and other United Nations entities, the Centro de Planificación y Estudio Social (Centre for Planning and Social Studies) and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar. The atlas is an innovative database that maps gaps in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and provides disaggregated data on a wide range of determinants, including ethnicity, sex, gender, age and region. The information contained in the atlas has made it possible to develop new social indicators that are better suited to measure poverty from a multidimensional perspective. The atlas served as a baseline for the National Strategy for Poverty Eradication and also provides data for the implementation of the National Development Plan for the period 2014–2017. The intention is to use the atlas in the years to come as a guide in the formulation and implementation of targeted policies aimed at addressing persistent inequalities in Ecuador.

Haiti: building capacity to monitor economic, social and cultural rights

65. Since 2009, the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has been carrying out an innovative programme to develop the capacity of civil society in several disadvantaged regions to monitor and advocate for economic, social and cultural rights. The main objectives of the public policy monitoring project were to encourage dialogue between the authorities and civil society on public policy priorities from a human rights-based approach, and to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in decision-making and in the development and monitoring of public policies and budgets.

66. The project has enhanced civil society's exposure to public decision-making and contributed to more open and regular information-sharing between it and the local and national authorities. The overall response of the Government has been positive, with the active participation of ministers and parliamentarians. The findings and recommendations emanating from the project were taken into account in the national budget process for 2012–2013.

67. In some cases, the project has been hampered by weak capacities and a lack of coordination and cooperation among State agencies. Access to public documents and information also proved challenging at times, especially outside the capital. The Human Rights Section of MINUSTAH is evaluating the project and working with the Government, civil society and the United Nations system to explore ways to extend it to other parts of the country.

Tunisia: strengthening civil society capacities to monitor the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights

68. Since 2012, the OHCHR office in Tunisia, in partnership with Amnesty International, has organized a series of training sessions outside the capital to build the capacity of civil society actors working in disadvantaged regions to better assess the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. That has included training on advocacy, campaign methodology and human rights-based budget analysis. In 2013, around 300 human rights defenders and representatives of civil society from across the country took part in those activities. Four regional civil society coalitions have been set up in the regions of the north-west, the centre, the south-east and the Gafsa Mining Basin. They have launched a national campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and have conducted human rights assessments of the local budgets, with the participation of local mayors.

IV. Lessons learned, challenges and the way forward

69. The examples presented in the present report highlight common traits and methodologies that have proved helpful in supporting programmes for human rights-based, inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction. Most of the key determinants for success that have been identified are related to national ownership — the projects have been planned and implemented at the request of national actors and in a way that ensures accountability, transparency and the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders. In that regard, experience has shown that it is crucial for all relevant State and non-State stakeholders to participate in all stages of those initiatives, starting from the initial conceptualization, through implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Such participation is all the more important when it comes to planning and decision-making that involve multiple sectors and require the expertise of a variety of ministries and institutions, such as in the implementation of multisectoral development and poverty-reduction

strategies. In that regard, a human rights-based approach can help to ensure policy coherence, including by highlighting the interrelatedness and interdependence of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

70. Women are particularly at risk of social exclusion as they are often exposed to multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Special measures are needed in order for women to be ensured equal rights to fully participate in public life in general and in decision-making that affects them specifically.

71. In order to strengthen monitoring, accountability and transparency, there is often a need to build capacities for the collection and analysis of detailed and disaggregated information, and to develop human rights indicators. Such data are crucial to identify gaps and disparities that are based on key social determinants, including gender, ethnicity, economic status and geographic location. Free access to current data can allow the public to monitor progress in the implementation of human rights through development and poverty-reduction programmes. Experiences in developing indicator frameworks that are specifically tailored to local circumstances show particular promise in that regard.

72. Promoting the integration of human rights in national budget processes has become an increasingly important area of work for OHCHR. The promotion and protection of all human rights require budgetary resources and, in the case of economic, social and cultural rights, Member States are obliged to provide "maximum available resources" to "progressively realize" those rights. Government budgets are fundamental tools for policy implementation and an effective way to ascertain whether national development priorities are being implemented. Budget monitoring, analysis and advocacy, from a human rights perspective, have the potential to provide concrete evidence of governments' efforts to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights for all without discrimination.

73. The experience of OHCHR also shows that, while participatory and inclusive processes are essential for sustainable and effective development, they are also inherently complex and demanding for all parties concerned. Any initiative aimed at engaging a wide range of stakeholders with varying claims and interests must therefore factor in sufficient time and resources to build the awareness and capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers to fully assume their respective roles in an informed and responsive manner. Such processes also require resilience, preparedness to commit and willingness to engage in positive and effective communication with a diverse range of counterparts. The work of OHCHR on reducing institutional care of persons with disabilities has generated useful examples of how national law and practice can be reformed through open and inclusive processes. Perhaps most importantly, meaningful participation and inclusion obviously need to go beyond mere information sharing or consultations, and require the empowerment of people to take an active part in decision-making, so as to ensure that poorly conceived participation exercises are not used to legitimize predetermined outcomes. In that regard, OHCHR has in many instances taken a facilitating role and managed to bring rights-holders and duty-bearers together to discuss and address often complex human rights issues. Those experiences show that empowerment and confidence-building need to go hand in hand in order to address discrimination and cultural barriers that prevent effective participation by marginalized groups, such as indigenous communities and vulnerable minorities.